



Thursday, May 26, 2016

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# PATIENT SAFETY IS RATED 'POOR'

Report by Richard Guttridge

MENTAL health services across Dudley and Walsall must improve, the health watchdog has ruled following an inspection.

The Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust has been rated as 'requiring improvement' overall following a detailed assessment of the three hospitals it runs in the Black Country.

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) found in its review that patient safety was of a 'poor standard' and said care plans were not always 'holistic, person centred or recovery focused'.

The regulator said the safety of some staff and patients was 'compromised' as there were not alarm systems in place in all areas.

The Beeches Day Hospital in Walsall did not have an operational alarm system at all at the time of inspection, it was said.

Inspectors also reported 'inconsistencies' in informal patients being able to leave wards, as is their right.

As part of their routine programme of inspections the CQC visited trust premises in early February to look at services.

Areas requiring improvement included records management, supervision, appraisals and training compliance and staff acting in accordance with the Mental Health Act Code of Practice.

The trust employs more than 1,000 people across 29 sites and runs three main units in the two boroughs - Bushey Fields Hospital in Dudley, Bloxwich Hospital and Dorothy Patti-

## Caring

While the trust was told services must improve overall, the CQC described day-to-day practice as caring, responsive and well-led.

Bosses at the trust have vowed to improve in those areas where they were deemed to be not doing enough.

But the trust also pointed to the many positive aspects of the report, including high morale among staff and a 'clear vision and set of values' which put patient safety as its top priority.

Acting chief executive Mark Axcell said: "We welcome the feedback from the CQC and, although we are disappointed with the final rating, the report highlights many areas of good practice and includes some positive feedback from inspectors, staff, patients, carers and stakeholders."

"Quality and safety remains our top priority and we have already taken action to address some of the points raised."

"We will continue to work with our staff, patients, carers and stakeholders to provide the best mental health services to the communities of Dudley and Walsall."

## ABIGAIL DANCES FOR JOY AFTER PAGEANT SUCCESS



Last year's Miss Black Country, Jade Secker, left, with the newly crowned winner for 2016/17 Abigail Cutler of Rowley Regis

A DANCER and charity ambassador from Rowley Regis has taken the prestigious title of Miss Black Country 2016-17.

Abigail Cutler, who said she was 'still in shock', will now go through to the Miss England semi-final at Kelham Hall, Newark on June 11.

She was chosen at a glittering catwalk event after two months of hard work of charity fundraising and raising publicity for the spectacle.

More than 250 friends, family and local firms attended the pageant at the Copthorne

Hotel, Brierley Hill, at the weekend. Jade Secker, Miss Black Country 2015-16, was also at the event to hand over her crown to Abigail.

Some 28 candidates paraded in eco wear, sports attire, fashionwear and evening dresses, with 12 selected as finalists.

Abigail said she was thrilled to have been chosen and was looking forward to celebrating with her family. She said: "As a local girl I'm looking forward to showing how amazing the Black Country is, with lots of charity and community work over the year."

"Every single one of the finalists did incredibly and we all showed how the Black Country girls can achieve amazing things."

If successful at Newark, she will go on to represent the area at the Miss England Finals in Southport in July.

The organisers have announced that due to the finalists' 'success and the hard work', the first and second runners-up would also compete in the semi-finals. They were first runner-up, performing arts student Faye Campbell and second runner-up Alex Robbins.

## INVESTIGATION

### Children wander out of pre-school centre

FOUR young children managed to get out of a pre-school near a busy road after leaving through a gate which supervisors assumed was locked.

Little Legends Pre-School in Rowley Regis is at the centre of an investigation into how the children - around three years old - got out last Wednesday. One was reportedly found in the middle of the busy Dudley Road, although bosses said that had not been confirmed.

Owner Matt Lee closed the pre-school temporarily following the incident and said disciplinary action could follow.

## TRANSPORT

### Fury at city centre tram launch delay

A THIRD delay to the Midland Metro scheme has caused anger. Services were due to start running from Bull Street to Stephenson Street last Sunday but were put on hold for further track alignment following safety checks by transport authority Centro.

The project to lay three-quarters of a mile of track started four years ago.

Angry Corporation Street trader David Johnson, who owns Rex Johnson jewellers, said the delays had badly affected trade.

## TRAGEDY

### Woman dies as fire rips through house

A WOMAN died when a blaze ripped through her home in Netherton, despite the brave efforts of neighbours to save her.

One woman crawled into the burning house to try to rescue the 67-year-old, named locally as Gillian Howard, after she heard her daughter screaming for help.

Police have now launched an investigation into the fire at the semi-detached house in Spring Road and thanked residents for their 'valiant' attempts to come to the aid of the victim.

Mrs Howard's daughter Nicki was taken to hospital after the fire on Thursday.

• Fatal blaze - see page 9

## INSIDE

### NEW MAYOR AND MAYORESS



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Tel: 01384 353201/01384 353205  
E-mail: dudley.chrons@expressandstar.co.uk

SPORTS:  
Tel: 01902 319453  
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# 550 sites identified for 'garden city'

PLANNERS behind a £6 billion 'garden city' for the Black Country say they have identified more than 500 sites for around 45,000 new homes.

The ambitious scheme unveiled earlier this year is create a new city stretching from Wolverhampton to Lye, Dudley Port, West Bromwich and Aldridge.

The 'garden city' would be the largest in the country and it would be built with open spaces and greenery in mind.

Civic and business leaders attended the MIPIM international property exhibition in the south of France to attract investment for the plans.

Chris Handy, chief executive of Accord Group

and board member of the Black Country Local Enterprise Project, which is behind the plan, said 'good progress' had been made.

He told board members at the Black Country LEP the scheme had attracted interest with at least eight small and medium-sized enterprises enquiring about it. These included developers and builders wanting to support the project.

He said: "We have had interest from three types of organisations, one being builders, the other being developers and lastly there has been interest from investors. Around 550 sites have been identified in the Black Country. The sites spread across 30 towns."

Mr Handy said out of the 45,000 homes to be built work had already started preparing 13,000 to 14,000 properties. The scheme will cover more than 3,700 acres.

Once funding has been secured work will last for a decade. Old industrial areas - brownfield sites - will be targeted.

The development is being led by the Black Country LEP and the Homes and Communities Agency, with the support of the Department for Communities and Local Government.

MIPIM - Le marché international des professionnels de l'immobilier - was a four-day exhibition, conference and networking event in Cannes.

## Countess at anniversary party for Air Ambulance

IT was a royal occasion for Midlands Air Ambulance Charity after the Countess of Wessex attended its 25th anniversary party at Hagley Hall, near Stourbridge.

The charity celebrated the milestone with a garden party where celebrities were among the guests.

In total 350 people attended the event, called 'Air 25', which was held to both celebrate the charity's anniversary and to thank supporters.

The air ambulance has carried out more than 46,000 missions since it started.

Sophie Helen Rhys-Jones, the Countess of Wessex, unveiled a sundial to commemorate the charity in the grounds of Hagley Hall, where the charity officially launched on May 21, 1991.

She has been a strong advocate of the charity and gave a speech where she praised its life-saving work and revealed she herself had been airlifted by an air ambulance to hospital.

Three ambulance helicopters flew in to mark the occasion.

Guests included the charity's ambassadors Lee Pearson CBE and Ryan Cockbill, both Rio 2016 Paralympians, actor John Challis (Boycie from Only Fools And Horses) and England Rugby World Cup winner Neil Back MBE, with broadcaster Michael Collie hosting the party.

Charity fundraisers, volunteers, aircrew, local dignitaries, MPs, and representatives from West Midlands Ambulance Service, Airbus Helicopters and Babcock Mission Services were also in attendance.

## It's fun, ay it, to mark big day

A WACKY dog show, mini Olympics and a visit from Paw Patrol are among the fun lined up to celebrate Black Country Day in Sandwell.

Staff at the Manor House Museum, in Hall Green Road, are organising Black Country Day Ay It! on Saturday July 9 from 12 noon to 11pm. Live music and comedians are also part of the daytime and evening festivities to celebrate all that is great about the Black Country.

People are being encouraged to enter a team of up to four people of any age and compete in the Black Country Day. For more information and to apply for the competitions, email [rachel\\_kin.sell@sandwell.gov.uk](mailto:rachel_kin.sell@sandwell.gov.uk)

More information on museum activities at [www.sandwell.gov.uk/joininmu](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/joininmu)

## Wartime songs are part of forces day

MORE attractions are lined up for Armed Forces Day at Himley Hall and Park in Dudley. The free event on Sunday, June 26, 11am to 5pm, will include the return of singing trio the D-Day Darlings and the Sealed Knot will turn back the clock to the 17th century.

# Brierley Hill's market hall is put up for sale

**BRIERLEY** Hill's market hall has been put up for sale - leaving the future of the town's indoor market uncertain.

The hall in High Street could sell for as much as £1 million after the family which have owned it for generations announced their intention to sell.

Estate agents appointed to oversee its sale said the hall would be sold with the intention that it continues to operate as a market - but ultimately its future would be decided by the new owner.

The indoor market has operated from the hall since 1930 with around 100 stallholders currently selling a range of products. It was described by estate agents Wilks Head & Eve as an 'attractive key asset' which 'forms a thriving centre to the retail scene in Brierley Hill'.

Iain Dewar, from the firm, said: "The family partnership, who have owned the market for many years, have now decided to offer the opportunity of ownership and running of the market hall into new hands.

### Operating

"The market hall will be offered for sale as a going concern with the intention that it should continue operating in a similar style to the way it has traded for many years.

"Privately owned and run markets on the scale of Brierley Hill very rarely become available for sale so this opportunity is expected to appeal to a wide number of different parties."

Thomas Greenwell, from the firm, could not rule out the building being used for another purpose in the future.

"It will be sold on the understanding it continues as a market. But it will be up to the purchaser to do with it what they see fit," he said.

Brierley Hill councillor Rachel Harris said: "Any property owner that comes in would clearly see how much potential there is there."

"It's an exciting opportunity for a new owner to come in and refurbish the market and keep it as the central focus in the High Street."

The market hall was built in 1930 and has always been in the hands of the Shapero family. In 2008, the building underwent a £150,000 facelift.

## Hugh leads cyclists on charity ride



Black Country cycling legend Hugh Porter with god-daughter Kate Stride (left) and her sister Helen Jackson

ALMOST 600 cyclists lined up alongside sport legend Hugh Porter MBE for a charity bike ride challenge on Sunday.

Starting at Kingswinford Rugby Club, the Round the Wrekin Sportive invited the 580 participants to cycle one of three routes in aid of Compton Hospice - 23 miles, 60 miles or 100 miles long.

The ride began at 8.30am with routes heading into the Shropshire Hills taking in the Long Mynd, Stiperstones and The Wrekin.

Mr Porter, who took part in the 23-mile route through Bobbington, Claverley and Pattingham, said it had been a first class day.

He said: "It has been fantastic and the weather stayed bright for us despite a few clouds popping in."

"I only did the short route but more than 100 of us took part in it and moved off in our little groups."

"I wasn't really worried about the time because my god-daughter and her sister came along and I rode with them and some friends

and had a laugh. It has been a brilliant atmosphere."

Born in Wolverhampton, Mr Porter won the World Championship title four times and took a gold medal at the Commonwealth Games during his cycling career.

He is also honorary patron of Compton Hospice and Halesowen Athletic and Cycling Club.

He added: "It means so much to be able to be part of something like this. We raised a lot of money and it is the start of raising even more."

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# Woman hit by bus is rushed to hospital

A WOMAN suffered serious head injuries after being hit by a bus in Stourbridge.

The woman, thought to be in her 50s, was taken to Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham after being hit at the junction of Church Street and Parkfield Road at 2.15pm on Friday.

An ambulance, a community paramedic, a paramedic area support officer and the Midlands Air Ambulance were all called to the scene. The helicopter landed at a nearby school but the victim was eventually taken to hospital by land ambulance.

Ambulance Service spokeswoman Claire Brown said: "The woman had sustained a serious head injury in the collision. The ambulance crews and the doctor worked to stabilise her condition by administering trauma care at the roadside."

"Once immobilised and stable, the woman was taken by land ambulance on blue lights to Queen Elizabeth Hospital. The doctor travelled in the ambulance to continue treatment en route."

Meanwhile, a man died after a crash involving a Jaguar car and a lorry near the Black Country Living Museum on Friday night.

Ambulance crews were called to the Birmingham New Road at 10.30pm but nothing could be done to save the 52-year-old, who was a passenger in the car. The driver was treated in hospital for head injuries. Both men were from Slough. The driver of the HGV was not injured in the crash.

## Man charged with attempted murder

A DUDLEY man has been charged with attempted murder after a man was shot in the Soho Hill area of Birmingham. Rio Sanchez-Williams appeared at Birmingham Magistrates Court on Friday.

It was in connection with disorder on October 30, which left one man dead and another fighting for his life.

The 27-year-old from Orchard Street was charged with attempted murder of Marvin Duffus, 29, who remains critically ill in hospital nearly five months later.

Derek Junior Myers, 25 from Handsworth, suffered a fatal gunshot wound.

Detective Superintendent Mark Payne appealed for anyone with information to call 101.

## Music of the Night for theatre group

MUSIC of the Night, an evening of music from Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber's musicals featuring West End singers, is being held in Brierley Hill Civic Hall on July 2 in aid of Stourbridge Side by Side Theatre Company.

# Robbers jailed after violent rampage



Jailed robber Tyrone Reid

ROBBERS who stole more than £1 million in cash, property and vehicles in a violent rampage across the Midlands have been jailed for more than 100 years.

Nine of the gang of 14, who targeted supermarkets and banks, were sentenced at Stafford Crown Court last week, including a Dudley man.

Before the court were Tyrone Reid, 25, of Cromwell Street, Dudley; Mark Hazel, 35, from Leaside Avenue, Rugeley; and Connor Robertson, 25, of Wood End Lane, Lichfield. Six other men from Birmingham and London were sentenced. All had been found guilty after a trial.

The gang's crimes included a robbery at HSBC in Sutton Coldfield where property and cash to the value of £700,000 was stolen and an employee was left needing hospital treatment.

The 14 men were charged in May 2014 with the exception of Robertson and Hazel, who went on the run.

Hazel and Reid continued to carry out violent robberies at Co-ops in Staffordshire. The crime spree came to an end in June 2015 when police arrived during a robbery at Morrisons on Upper Gungate in Tamworth. Hazel was arrested in the Preston area after a robbery in Wales.

Robertson was jailed for 12 years six months for conspiracy to rob, burgle and steal. Hazel got eight years for conspiracy to rob and burgle. Reid was given seven years for conspiracy to rob and steal.

Of the Birmingham men, Aaron Leathem, 24, of Gipsy Lane, was given 15 years six months for conspiracy to rob, burgle, to steal and conspiracy to burgle. Irfan Bonner, 28, of Faulkner's Farm Drive, was jailed for 10 years six months for conspiracy to rob and to steal. Wayne Stokes, 31, of The Ridgeway, was sentenced to 10 years for conspiracy to rob and an additional robbery.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### It's a rock track as Ozzy honoured

ROCK icon Ozzy Osborne will return to his native Birmingham this week to mark a tram being named after him. The Aston-born 'Prince of Darkness' will be in town today, Thursday, to meet the Midland Metro tram named after him.

Fans of the Black Sabbath singer can see Ozzy, who had a hit with *Crazy Train*, at the new Corporation Street stop at 11am.

Ozzy said: "It's a great honour to have a new tram named after me, I'm proud to be a Brummie and this means so much."

### Claim figures up as more seek work

DUDLEY saw the highest increase in the number of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance and other unemployment benefits in the Black Country last month.

It rose by 185 to 5,540 – 2.9 per cent of the working population – and followed a rise of 50 in March.

Unemployment for the wider West Midlands was up 8,000 to 154,000 for January to March despite the national total falling 2,000 to 1.69 million. Staffs' total remained at 710.

Employment in the West Midlands is at a record high of 2.65m.

### Concert with a summer sound

A SUMMER concert will be performed by Coseley Male Voice Choir in Sedgley next weekend.

A Summer's Evening of Song will be presented in St Andrew's Church in Bilston Street on Saturday, June 4.

Special guest and compere for the evening is Tipton poet David Bartley.

Tickets for the concert, which starts at 7.30pm, costs £6 on the door, or are available in advance from choir members or from the secretary on 0121 5200739.

### Eyes have it for new Startime Variety show

BLACK Country theatre group Startime Variety is staging a musical show in Halesowen later this summer.

Startime In Your Eyes is at Cornbow Hall in Halesowen from July 13 to 16. The show is based on popular TV series *Stars In Your Eyes* and is produced by Kirsty Aldridge and Darcy Grainger. The cast will be performing songs from the 1950s to 80s.

Tickets cost £10 for adults plus concessions. Call 07901055685 or visit [www.startimevariety.co.uk](http://www.startimevariety.co.uk)

### Solve clues at Himley

A SCAVENGER hunt takes place on Wednesday, June 1, at Himley Hall and Park, near Dudley.

Clue sheets will be handed out on the day. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

For more information contact 01384 817825.

# Boy, 14, was sold for sex in red light district

NINE men, including a Black Country bus driver, have been convicted of sex offences against a boy who was pimped out in Birmingham's gay red light district after running away from a children's home.

Jurors at Warwick Crown Court deliberated for more than 30 hours before convicting defendants from the West Midlands, London and Stoke-on-Trent of offences involving the boy. Pimp Stephen Kelly had befriended the boy at New Street station when he was just 14, and sold him for sex with other men.

He appeared in the dock at Warwick Crown Court with 11 other men who between them were accused of more than 50 sex offences against the boy in 2009 and 2010.

Bus driver Ian Prestleton, 54, of High Haden Road, Cradley Heath, was found guilty of sexual activity with a child but cleared of rape. Alan Priest, 63, of Mucklow Hill, Halesowen, was convicted of two rapes and one count of sexual activity with a child.

All the convicted men were warned they face custodial sentences when they return to court for sentencing on July 1.

At the end of a three-month trial Kelly, aged 39, of Elm Road, Bournville, was found guilty of two charges of arranging or facilitating the prostitution of the boy and one of sexual activity in the presence of a child.

Prosecutor Rosina Cottage QC said the victim ran away from a children's home in December 2009, when he was 14, and was missing for 11 days before being found at Kelly's home and returned to care.

During that time he had been pimped by Kelly in the Kent Street area of Birmingham. The boy was interviewed by the police at the time but it was only when the investigation was re-opened that he went into full details. As a result, arrests were made.

A tenth defendant, former Special Constable Ronald Potter, 78, from Pippens Lane, Fillongley, near Coventry, was convicted of two independent assaults committed against another boy in 2001 and 2002 but cleared of rape and sexual activity with a child. Jurors acquitted two other men.

## First Muslim mayor for Dudley



The first Muslim Mayor of Dudley Councillor Mohammed Hanif and Mayoress Zabeda Khanam

THE new mayor of Dudley is the first Muslim to serve as the borough's first citizen.

Councillor Mohammed Hanif was voted in as mayor at a full council meeting on Thursday night, succeeding Councillor Steve Walther.

Former deputy mayor Councillor Hanif has been a councillor for nine years for the Lye and Stourbridge North ward.

He has pledged to raise thou-

sands of pounds for charity split between three charities – the Friends of Alfie Johnson, Diabetes UK – Type 2 Together and Dudley CIL. Councillor Hanif said: "It is an enormous honour and a privilege to be Mayor of Dudley and I will serve the residents of Dudley borough to the best of my ability."

"Both the Mayoress and I are looking forward to being ambassadors for the borough and promoting all the good things

that happen here as well as the rich Black Country culture full of industrial heritage. I am also very proud to be the first Muslim mayor of the borough and passionate about working with the local diverse communities."

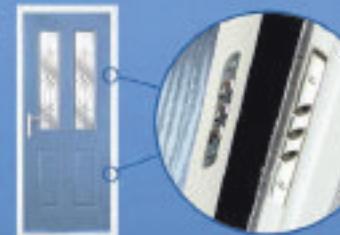
Councillor Hanif's wife, Zabeda Khanam, was named mayoress at the ceremony in the council chamber. Councillor Dave Tyler was sworn in as deputy mayor with his wife Barbara deputy mayoress.



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## THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



SUNBURN on Monday, soaked on Tuesday, sunburn on Wednesday. God, I love Scotland. The weather varied from blazing sunshine to that dense grey drizzle that the Scots call dreich and on to that persistent precipitation that the Scots call püssendoon. The great thing about the rain, as one Scot explained, is that it keeps the midges quiet. It is a great land for counting your blessings.

Did it not seem strange in the hours following the EgyptAir disaster, that no terrorist organisation claimed responsibility? France is Islamic State's prime target and Egypt its sworn enemy. To make such a high-profile attack on both nations would be a feather in IS's cap. It may be that some terror group will produce convincing proof that it did the killing. But we should remember there is one thing far more terrifying than an airliner that falls out of the sky because of terrorism, and that is an airliner that falls out of the sky all by itself.

AFTER a week without newspapers I pick up the Daily Mail where pundit Peter Osborne suggests our next prime minister could be the Health Secretary, Jeremy Hunt. The silly season starts earlier every year.

ONE blessing of being a Scot is to be better informed than those terrible people south of the border. The Scots have a separate legal system which means they all know the identity of the world-famous showbiz couple involved in a three-way tryst whose secrecy is so jealously protected in England by our wonderful Supreme Court. "Oh, you mean that business about \*\*\*\*?" (asterisks for the benefit of the English), said one local when I started the conversation. "We've known about that for ages. To be honest, I'm not in the least interested in what \*\*\*\* has been up to." This makes the fascinating legal point that what interests the public is not necessarily in the public interest, and even if something is in the public interest, it doesn't mean the public is remotely interested.

SCOTLAND over, we headed back down the M6 in blinding spray. Why is it so many motorists refuse to put on their headlights in such conditions? To be fair, some drivers were very busy texting.

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# Enterprise zone set to transform Waterfront

THE creation of an enterprise zone in Brierley Hill will bring 4,000 jobs and 'change the perception' of the area, says a Black Country business leader.

Business in the Black Country was given a huge boost when proposals to make The Waterfront and parts of neighbouring Harts Hill an enterprise zone were approved as part of the Chancellor's budget in March.

Now members of the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership have been hitting the streets to tell people how the massive scheme will transform the area and benefit local residents.

Enterprise zones attempt to aid business growth by offering companies advantages by agreeing to set up there.

Businesses moving in at Brierley Hill will be given the carrot of a business rate-free period for five years to tempt them to move to the complex near the Merry Hill shopping centre.

### Metro

Long-term aims also include creating 66,000 sq ft of business space to improve what is already on offer to potential tenants.

Civic leaders say the plans also hold the key to bringing the much-heralded Midland Metro extension to Brierley Hill.

To mark the publicity campaign, bosses posted a tweet which said: "Brierley Hill Enterprise Zone will create jobs locally and across the whole West Midlands."

Ninder Johal, a board member at the Local Enterprise Partnership, said he was expecting an 'influx

of businesses' at the site over the next few years and pointed to the i54 development in Wolverhampton as evidence of how successful enterprise zones can be.

He said: "What we are talking about is 4,000 jobs and the potential for small businesses to find a place where they can grow.

"An influx businesses means we can fully utilise local colleges and universities to up-skill people.

"When it all comes to fruition there will be a lot of jobs, a lot of skills and the perception of the area will change."

Mr Johal said it was not known when work on delivering the enterprise zone would begin at this stage.

"We have only just managed to get approval. We have had the nod and we will get into the detail and see what we can do."

During its heyday, The Waterfront was one of the borough's prime locations with waterside bars and restaurants adding to the vibrant atmosphere.

Currently around 40 per cent of the site near to Merry Hill shopping centre is vacant.

## Food for thought at pageant



Student Chelsea Rist, 16, has been chosen as Miss Earth 2016

A 16-YEAR-old Halesowen student has won the coveted title of Miss Earth after she impressed the judges with her campaign against food waste.

Halesowen College animal care student Chelsea Rist, of Hartshore Street, Bilton, won the Miss Earth 2016 pageant after a weekend of competing at the MacDonalds Burlington Hotel, Birmingham, which saw her complete a catwalk challenge, a cocktail dress round, a evening wear, swimwear and eco-challenge round.

### Idea

Chelsea's idea for the eco-challenge was a campaign to prevent people from ditching unwanted frozen goods before they get to the till, which means a product defrosts before staff have a chance to return it to the correct department.

The teenager told judges she would like to launch a campaign to make more people aware of this issue and also suggested that more canteens and food outlets have recycling bins for different materials.

Fundraiser Chelsea, who has already raised £1,200 for charities this year, is planning a charity skydive on June 4 and an abseil for charity Acorns on July 2. The following day she will be doing the 5k colour blast run for Compton Hospice.

## Lots for children to do at centre

THERE are lots of activities on offer at Dudley Leisure Centre this half term to help keep youngsters entertained.

Children can enjoy 'Bos-tin Bruce' the fun inflatable aqua pool run, with obstacles and a challenge section with slide from 1.45pm to 2.45pm on Tuesday and Thursday (June 2).

Suitable for eight to 15 year olds who can swim 25 metres or more, the activity costs £3 per child and juniors can stay in the pool for a swim for just £1 extra afterwards.

Activezone offers a day of fun including dance mats, Nintendo Wii, crafts, swimming and team games including football, rounders, basketball and badminton for £20 per day. Activezone will run on Tuesday and June 2 from 9am to 4pm for eight to 14-year-olds.

Juniors under the age of 16 can also get a 50 per cent discount on courts for badminton, squash, 5-a-side football, netball and basketball.

Alan Lunt, strategic director for place, said: "This half term Dudley Council is organising lots of fantastic activities across the borough, including activities at libraries and parks and I would encourage parents to find out more about them by visiting [www.dudley.gov.uk/schoolout](http://www.dudley.gov.uk/schoolout)."

Pre-booking at reception is recommended for most of the school holiday activities.

A 50 per cent discount is available with an Options+ leisure discount card.

For more information visit Dudley Leisure Centre, call (01384) 812800 or go to [www.dudley.gov.uk/sport](http://www.dudley.gov.uk/sport)

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## Praise for initiative on hate crime

A PROJECT in Dudley that supports the victims of hate crime has been praised by the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner.

The Commissioner's Victims Fund provided £14,608 to Summit House's Dudley Advice and Safety Project. Money was spent on providing the victims of hate crime in the borough with support and advice. It focuses on homophobia and transphobia.

An exhibition event held at Summit House in North Street, Dudley, celebrated the work and achievements of the scheme.

West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson said: "I was so very proud to speak at this event celebrating the sterling work of Summit House's Dudley Advice and Safety Project. I am proud that my office has been able to fund this."

"Hate crime is a stomach-churning offence and we must do all we can to bring it out of the shadows and into the light so we can tackle it head-on."

"The care of victims is paramount and this scheme helps people get back on their feet by providing 'hate crime champions' to support them throughout their recovery."

"We all have the right to live in peace regardless of our sexuality, gender, race and religion and it sickens me there are still people out there who believe otherwise."

## BRIT winners Jump The Shark headline at pub

YOUNG Wolverhampton band Jump The Shark have a headline gig at Birmingham pub venue The Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath, on Wednesday.

The quartet, who won a BRIT award for young talent, features singer and drummer Tasha Jones, guitarists Theo Williams and Jon Murphy, and Matt Gregory bass.

West Midlands Police Chief Inspector Gill Davenport said: "We have been made aware that the victim in this case is disappointed with the police response and we are discussing these issues with him."

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# Charity launches plea to find new homes for youngsters

## I had to watch my business being burgled

A BUSINESSMAN who called police when he saw a break-in at his firm on CCTV said he was left to watch it unfold after being told officers could not attend until the next day.

Paul Smart watched on a screen at his home near Kidderminster as the theft took place at his Brierley Hill photographic firm.

When he called 999 to report the theft he said he was first told to call the non-emergency number 101 and then told police would not go until the next morning. By the time officers did arrive, the crooks were long gone.

Their crime left Doodah Creative, on The Walks Industrial Estate in Fens Pool Avenue, out of pocket to the tune of £20,000.

Mr Smart, who lives in Chaddesley Corbett, received a call about the burglary and watched it from a screen in his home, 12 miles away. The burglary lasted 50 minutes.

### Manpower

He said he got through to West Mercia Police when he dialled 999 around 2.30am on Friday and was then told to call West Midlands Police on 101.

He said: "I apparently live in the West Mercia area. I gave them the address and they said 'ah, you need to call West Midlands Police on 101'.

"I called 101 and told them the same story. They said they did not have the manpower to do anything."

"Watching someone take your property away like that, while not being able to do anything, it was awful."

West Midlands Police Chief Inspector Gill Davenport said: "We have been made aware that the victim in this case is disappointed with the police response and we are discussing these issues with him."



CCTV shows one of the thieves in the act of stealing at Doodah Creative

A BLACK Country charity is calling on people to offer vulnerable teenagers a home after revealing it has been forced to turn youngsters away following a surge in applications.

Youngsters have been placed with families in Dudley borough as part of the YMCA's Open Door project which aims to prevent them from becoming homeless.

But bosses at the charity said they are now struggling to keep up with the level of demand and need more people to open their doors offer the young people a roof over their heads.

Applications have tripled this year compared to the same period 12 months ago. They have received 38 referrals, which has left them struggling to cope with demand.

### Hosts

The charity is now looking for new hosts to provide a safe place for youngsters to live. Hosts can come from a variety of different backgrounds, from single people to married couples or families with children who have a spare room available.

Children offered a home have to agree to take up education or employment. Those who take the youngsters receive around £100 a week and can claim £20 expenses for meals. Training and support is provided.

The charity will be running a free host preparation course which will allow people who are interested to find out more about the scheme.

Kerry Davies, a host in Dudley, said: "I was a bit nervous at first about becoming a host as I have no children of my own and wasn't sure how well I would relate to them. I am now on my second long-term placement and I've loved every minute."

Email [rachael.taylor@ymcabc.org.uk](mailto:rachael.taylor@ymcabc.org.uk) or call 0121 524 1974.

## Man in court to face child sex charges

A MAN from Rowley Regis will appear before Wolverhampton Crown Court over allegedly having and distributing indecent images of children via his laptop and phone.

Matthew Harper, aged 23, of Ross Height, appeared at Dudley Magistrates Court on Monday.

He entered no plea to the charges of making an indecent photograph/pseudo-photograph of a child, distributing an indecent image of a child and inciting sexual activity with a girl between the age of 13 to 16 in Spain.

### Internet

The alleged offences were said to have occurred between August 2014 and February 2015.

Harper was granted conditional bail, with several conditions including not use library internet services. He will appear at Wolverhampton Crown Court on June 20 for a hearing.



# Response to tiff sure takes some bleating

WE'VE all been there. Thomas Thwaites was feeling a bit down in the dumps, his job wasn't going as well as he would have liked, and he'd had a tiff with his girlfriend. So he did what any of us would have done. He decided to become a goat. I kid you not.

First of all, he had some prosthetic hooves fitted, and started walking around on all fours. Then he put on a rather strange white hat, which made him look like a Star Wars character. Or one of those bolshie cyclists who go through red traffic lights.

But the 34-year-old didn't have it all his own way. He asked a neuroscientist if he could shut down part of his brain, to make him think like a goat, but for some reason the technology hasn't been perfected yet.

They couldn't alter his digestive system so he could live on raw grass, either, so he had to take a pressure cooker along with him. Which didn't go down terribly well in the goat community.

Anyway, he spent six days living on the Alps, hobbling around on all fours and sleeping in a barn. He's also written a book about it, which you're no doubt itching to read.

He also reckons he made a goat friend, although they all left him behind when they decided to migrate.

National Union of Mountain Goats spokesman Goatee McGoatface was unimpressed.

He said: "He looked nothing like a goat, we just thought he was a strange man having an early mid-life crisis. We would have been more impressed if he had bought a Harley Davidson."

By the way, the Wellcome Trust medical charity gave him £29,000 for his work. You're telling me that is not value for money?

□□□

FILMING has reportedly been taking place around Birmingham for a sequel to action movie Kingsman: The Secret Service, which starred Colin Firth as a top security chief.

Having had high hopes for the film, which I thought would be a stylish witty movie along the lines of The Avengers, I have to say it was one of the daftest things I had seen.

But still, it is good to see the West Midlands getting a bit of exposure on the big screen, although it's a shame they didn't choose the Black Country instead.

Gunfights on the big wheel in Dudley, speedboat chases on the cut in Bilton, what's not to like?

What's more, I'm sure they could rustle up some shenanigans at the West Brom Casino.

These movie types have got no imagination, that's the trouble. That's why they always make sequels.



Some of Hannah Reynolds's specially commissioned artwork



Local historian David Robbie at the exhibition launch



A close-up of Hannah Reynolds's exhibits

# Tolkien celebration starts year-long tour



JRR Tolkien's Staffordshire Map by Hannah Reynolds



JRR Tolkien during the Great War

**AN exhibition celebrating the author of The Lord of the Rings' links with Staffordshire has begun a year-long tour of the region.**

This fascinating insight into the early years of one of the world's best-loved writers, and his time spent in Staffordshire, has already been seen by almost 4,000 visitors during its stay at the Museum of Cannock Chase.

JRR Tolkien – Soldier and Myth Maker: JRR Tolkien in Staffordshire 1915-1918, organised by The Haywood Society, supported by Staffordshire County Council's libraries and arts service and the Museum of Cannock Chase, and funded by The Heritage Lottery Fund, is at Cannock Library throughout May.

Libraries chief Councillor Ben Adams said it is clear that Staffordshire had a profound

effect on the writer's formative years, and that the county is right to feel proud of those links when his worldwide appeal is probably at its highest.

"The Tolkien in Staffordshire story is one of war, comradeship, creativity, love and loss, and this exhibition offers visitors a rare chance to learn more about the author's stay in Staffordshire and what it was like to be a soldier in the Great War," Councillor Adams added.

## Genuine

Highlights of the exhibition include rare photos and original sketches of domestic scenes and landscapes by Tolkien, not seen in Staffordshire since they left with the author in 1918, specially loaned by The Tolkien Estate and Bodleian Library.

One visitor said: "This is a fantastic introduction to how local history can be related to

national figures and bring a greater in-depth understanding to local history, in a unique and genuine way."

Another visitor said: "Go and see it, most interesting. Another gem of wisdom learned."

Arriving in Staffordshire on August 17, 1915, JRR Tolkien would begin a connection with Staffordshire that would span the remaining years of the Great War and provide inspiration for the mythology and geography of what we now know as Middle-earth.

The author was stationed first at Whittington Heath, near Lichfield, next at a musketry camp at Newcastle-under-Lyme, then at Rugeley and Brocton Camps on Cannock Chase.

After seeing action during the infamous Battle of the Somme in June 1916, Tolkien spent a period of convalescence, with his new wife Edith, in Great Haywood.

The Tolkiens later briefly took up residence

**'JRR Tolkien – Soldier and Myth Maker' tour dates**

**2016**  
CANNOCK LIBRARY – Tuesday 26 April to Wednesday, June 1.

RUGELEY LIBRARY – Friday, June 3 to Saturday, July 2.

GREAT HAYWOOD Memorial Hall – Tuesday, July 5 to Sunday, July 10.

CODSALL LIBRARY – Tuesday, July 12 to Monday, August 22.

PENKIRIDGE LIBRARY – Wednesday, August 24 to Saturday, October 22.

SHIRE HALL GALLERY – Tuesday, October 25 to Wednesday, November 16.

LICHFIELD Library – Friday, November 18 to Saturday, January 8, 2017.

**2017**  
STAFFORD LIBRARY / SP1 foyer – Tuesday, January 10 to Monday, February 27.

The exhibition then moves to Rugeley Library until Saturday, July 2.

## Organised

Events have been organised to accompany the exhibition, include a Tolkien talk by local historian and exhibition collaborator David Robbie and a family craft workshop with local artist Hannah Reynolds, whose work features prominently in the exhibition.

For more information, contact Cannock Library, via the Staffordshire County Council contact centre, on 0300 111 8000 or email [cannock.library@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:cannock.library@staffordshire.gov.uk)

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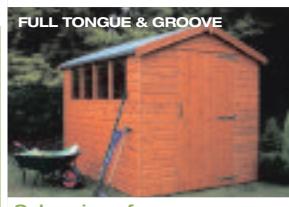
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# Expansion of EU membership and increasing immigration are killing our country's services

IT seems a majority of people are still undecided on which way to vote in our referendum next month.

I follow politics in all the media and I am certain of which vote will be better for our country and personal future prosperity.

Unfortunately, most people do not watch the news programmes or read the political columns in the newspapers.

The truth is, we are all being shack-

## Elderly are being left in dire straits

SO now our hard pressed hospitals are forced into another impossible situation, vulnerable and infirm patients are now having to be evicted from their hospital beds, sometimes late at night in order to free up space for others.

There is little provision in local authority accommodation for these often older people who in many cases can no longer manage on their own.

Yes, we should have known that we would need to offer more facilities both for our older people who have struggled through so much, and also the current baby boomers. But how can we plan for an unknown number of European Union migrants, 800,000 in the last year, all entitled to receive care from our National Health Service?

Is anyone still in any doubt as to which way to vote? As I see it we have no choice.

**R WILLIAMS**  
Brierley Hill

**J CARVER**  
West Midlands UKIP MEP



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led by hundreds of new laws and petty fogging regulations pouring from the unelected so-called government in Brussels. On top of these are diktats which our government says we are forced to comply with.

The expansion of EU membership and increasing immigration are killing our country's services. The NHS, housing provision and all social care are being destroyed by the pressures of overloading. And now a European Army is being planned.

It is obvious to me that our only salvation is to get out of this failed EU project and start to enjoy the prosperity once again of making our own way in the world.

The British Isles have been successful, both in times of Empire and Commonwealth and could be again.

Let the Midlands lead the way and VOTE OUT for the sake of the young couples, their children and grandchildren and generations to come.

**ERIC CASEY**

Kingswinford

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### POST

Dudley Chronicle,  
Chronicle Editorial,  
51-53 Queen Street  
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

### EMAIL

dudley.chrons@  
expressandstar.co.uk

*Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.*

## Do not take local newspapers for granted, says MEP

LOCAL newspapers are taken for granted by many readers – but they should never be under-valued, particularly as sadly many are under threat and many others have vanished forever.

This is Local Newspaper Week and it is only right that the fantastic role they play in community life should be highlighted.

Life gets ever harder for newspapers, particularly the weeklies, with decreased staffing levels and local authorities, hospital trusts and emergency services employing press officers to try to ensure only good news is revealed.

With local authorities using a cabinet system the so-called transparency they preach can be anything but.

However, determined journalists always seek after the truth on behalf of the communities they serve and that should never be forgotten.

**R HOPKINS**  
Halesowen

## Not happy with new Yeltz strip

THE heritage and tradition of the Halesowen Town Football Club badge has been decimated from being 'class' to 'crass'.

There is no indication it is a football club badge as FC is not printed on it. It could be a rugby, cricket or whatever club that it represents.

The drawing of St John's Church, which is symbolic with Halesowen Town, is a total disgrace and detrimental to the historic church.

Over the years that the instantly recognisable badge of HTFC has appeared on shirts, scarves and other products, there has never been a problem. Surely with the advanced technology involved for today's media, these two traditional symbols are not a problem.

Who authorised this change of badge with no regard for the supporters voice? Yes, things do have to move on, but this badge change is definitely NOT for the better.

**R HOPKINS**  
Halesowen

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# 8 Pioneering women who led the way for female slant to politics

## MEMORY LANE

By Richard Guttridge

THE 1918 general election was a groundbreaking vote as women went to the polls for the first time.

And while the battles of the suffragettes to secure the vote for women went down in history, less is known about the first women who stood for election.

Of the 17 women who contested the election, three were from the Black Country and Birmingham – meaning the West Midlands provided more female candidates than anywhere else in the UK.

### Daunting

It was a proud moment for Mary MacArthur, Margery Corbett Ashby and Christobel Pankhurst – daughter of suffragette leader Emmeline – but surely a slightly daunting one too as they entered into a political scene which had previously been a men-only club.

Their stories have been retold almost 100 years on from that historic election by David Hallam, a former MEP from Smethwick, who carried out research as part of his Masters of Arts course at Birmingham University.

While the three women were at the forefront of early 20th century girl



Former MEP  
David Hallam, of  
Smethwick



Part of a poster for Christabel Pankhurst's campaign

Mary MacArthur sets out her stall

Family-oriented – Margery Corbett Ashby

power, the unity ended there as they stood for different parties.

Mary MacArthur contested the Stourbridge seat, which also included Oldbury, Halesowen and Warley Woods, for Labour.

Christobel Pankhurst stood in Smethwick as a Women's Party Coalition Candidate.

Margery Corbett Ashby had the toughest task as she took on the might of the Unionist electoral machine in Birmingham Ladywood facing Neville

Chamberlain, who would later become Prime Minister.

Just getting on the ballot paper was a victory in itself but it soon became clear their path towards the House of Commons would be anything but straightforward.

And it wasn't to be as all three women were defeated. Of the 17 women who stood across the UK, just one was elected and that was in Dublin which was at that time still part of the union.

"All three women were in their 30s whilst their well entrenched male opponents were much older, in their 40s or 50s," Mr Hallam said.

### Opponents

"All three were disappointed with the outcome. Both MacArthur and Pankhurst were tipped to win by local and national pundits."

Mary MacArthur in particular was given a rough ride by opposition candidates.

Mr Hallam said: "She was subject to some really sexist abuse from her opponents."

"Of course, no-one thought of having female MPs. The press also made a big fuss about it so there was a novelty value."

"But it was an unusual election."

"Most of the troops were away on active service."

"In a town like Smethwick around a quarter of the men would have been away."

Only one of the defeated candidates from the West Midlands would stand again as their lives took very different paths.

MacArthur died soon afterwards, Pankhurst withdrew from politics altogether to concentrate on promoting her religious beliefs.

Corbett Ashby, meanwhile, battled on, contesting another six elections.

But her dream to stand as an MP would never be realised as she was unsuccessful on each occasion.

But while the three women would never take their seats in Parliament, they were the inspiration for those who followed.

Mr Hallam said: "It was something of an auspicious start but it was an historic moment."

### President

Today, there are seven female MPs in the Black Country and Birmingham.

And looking further afield the United States could have its first female president later this year in Hillary Clinton.

But it was a journey that was far from easy.

Mr Hallam said: "Women achieved the vote and the right to stand for Parliament in 1918 and yet for nearly 70 years afterwards never held more than five per cent, averaging about 25 of the 600 or so seats in the House of Commons."

"Even today there are only 148 female MPs."

"My study of those first three women throws some light on the resistance women met, and still meet, when putting themselves forward for election."

# ADVERTISEMENT

# Suction solution

Struggling with unstable dentures and looking for a possible solution that does not involve surgery or fixatives? Denture Clinic Principal Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS(Eng) GDC 108353, who heads the team at his multi-disciplined practice in Dudley, takes a look at the increasingly popular Ultra Suction Dentures solution.

THERE are around 11 million denture wearers in the UK and it's not just the elderly who require them.

Surprisingly, nearly a million people aged 16 to 44 have false teeth.

There will be many different reasons for adult tooth loss – the most prevalent being dental disease – but wearers will all likely have at some stage another common problem: Stabilisation – particularly lower dentures that randomly move about and are hugely unpredictable.

If not addressed, displacement becomes progressively worse and as the denture rises from the gum, food particles are trapped beneath and sore spots quickly develop.

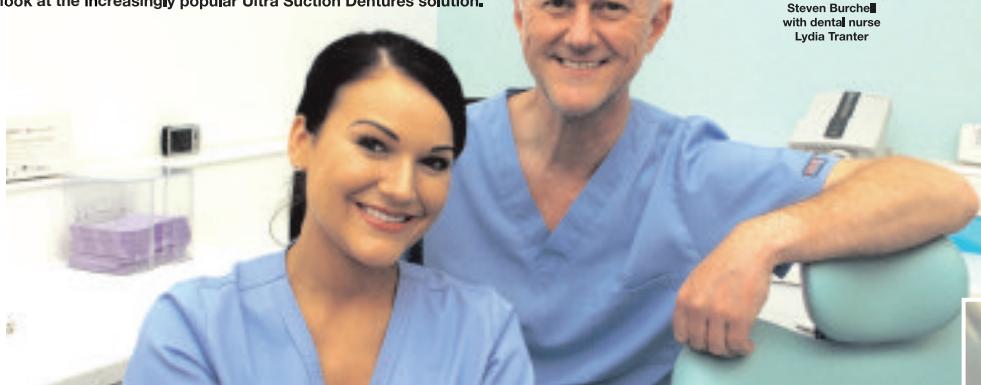
### Secure

Despite buckets of fixative, in the words of one patient, "the dentures appear to take on a life of their own" and sufferers can't eat what they want, when they want.

It's an all-too-familiar, daily story in any clinic.

Particularly for those without any teeth, gum profiles change through the passing of time and so does the denture fit as initial harmonious matches between gums and prosthetics are slowly compromised with bone and gum erosion.

Lifting, twisting and general movement of dentures is a sure indicator that a new



Denture Clinic Principal  
Steven Burchell  
with dental nurse  
Lydia Trantner

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# Neighbours tried to save woman from house blaze



The scene of the fatal fire in Spring Road, Netherton

NEIGHBOURS have spoken of their horror after a woman died when a blaze ripped through a house in Netherton.

Neighbours tried to save the 67-year-old, named locally as Gillian Howard. Police have launched an investigation into her death at the house in Spring Road and thanked residents for their 'valiant' attempts to come to her aid.

Mrs Howard's daughter Nicki was taken to hospital after the fire on Thursday, which left the semi-de-

tached property a charred wreck. The pensioner's body was found in the front lounge of the house after a fire tore through the building. Mrs Howard was confirmed dead at the scene.

Miss Howard, aged 36, was taken to Dudley's Russells Hall hospital and treated for smoke inhalation and shock.

Police have appealed for witnesses to the blaze to come forward.

Neighbour Jackie Tanner, 47, heard screams on Thursday morning and rushed outside in her dressing gown to try to help.

Doctor's receptionist Mrs Tanner, a

mother of one, said: "I heard a woman screaming that her mum was in the house which was on fire.

"I could see her on the floor in the living room. I opened the door and she was lying there. I had to crawl because the smoke and heat was that bad. Then the curtains came down and the next thing I know I just got blown out of the house somehow."

"I'm so sorry that she died. It's terrible."

A second woman was treated for smoke inhalation. A third woman, believed to be a neighbour, was uninjured.

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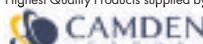
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# Rep remembers much-missed pair



The cast of *Private Lives* together with friends and relatives of Doreen Bastable and Paul Spilsbury. Back row, from left, John Tyler, Janet Grant, Emma Francis, Helen Spragg, Garry Cooper, Chris Stanton, Karen Walker, Robert Spilsbury, Guy Radforth (director). Front row - Alan Bastable, Rosemary Tyler, Margaret and Mark Spilsbury

OLDBURY Rep's 500th main house production, Noel Coward's classic comedy *Private Lives*, ended its run, after it was dedicated to two of its most long-standing members who passed away recently.

Many performances sold out and there was high critical praise from audiences. The play was dedicated to past chairman, Doreen Bastable, who died in November 2015 and gave 73 years of service to Oldbury Rep along with Paul Spilsbury, whose sudden death in March was a shock to everyone who knew him.

Press officer Alan Wood said: "He

had been a member since the late 70's and played an active role in so many productions both on stage, as a fine actor, and also assisting and costuming plays where he was an exceptional talent. We shall miss them both very much."

Members and friends of both Doreen's and Paul's family were invited to the final performance of the play and after the show met the cast and directors and presented chairman, Chris Smith, with donations amounting to over £1,000 made in their memory.

The troupe's season finale is Patrick Barlow's stage adaptation of The

Thirty Nine Steps based on Alfred Hitchcock's 1935 film version of the gripping spy drama written by John Buchan, with four actors playing all the roles, from July 9-16.

The rep's film season continues with Meryl Streep in *Suffragette*, tomorrow, Friday; Tom Courtenay and Charlotte Rampling in *45 Years* on June 10; and *Dads Army* will be screened on June 24. Alan added: "This promises to be one of our most successful seasons, and Oldbury Rep would like to thank audiences for their continued support of its productions and film shows."

Patrick Barlow's stage adaptation of The

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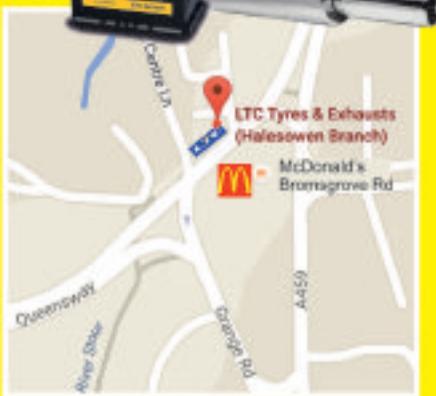
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# 12 Neigh bother – stray horses reined in across Black Country

THEY'VE trampled over gardens and given many a driver a shock after wandering out into the road. But it seems that after years of stray horses causing a nuisance in the Black Country, they are finally being reined in.

Councils report a significant drop in numbers across the area with fewer reports of the animals roaming in Sandwell and Dudley.

The number collected from streets and open spaces has fallen by 32 per cent overall compared with the previous year and more than 60 per cent compared with 2013.

Numbers have fallen from an average of around 200 a year in 2013 to 74 in 2015/16 with the majority of animals later rehomed.

New laws were introduced last year making it easier for councils and the RSPCA to take action against owners who abandon their animals.

In Sandwell there were 29 horses rounded up from streets in 2015/16 – down from 47 during the previous 12 months.

## Education

Councillor Paul Moore, cabinet member for regeneration and investment, said: "There is a drop in the numbers which we believe is down to better education of horse owners since the new act came into force."

Owners must know that illegally-tethered horses on council-owned land will not be tolerated."

In Dudley a total of 45 horses were found roaming roads and grass areas during 2015/16 – down from 51 in 2014/15.

More than 600 were collected from the two boroughs between 2011 and 2014.

Areas plagued by stray horses in recent years have included Fens Pool nature reserve and land around Russells Hall, near to the hospital.

## Students put the focus on tourism skills

A GROUP of travel and tourism students from Halesowen College have showed off their creative and entertainment skills during a special showcase.

They were put into two groups to plan, prepare and deliver an entertainment activity to an audience as part of their studies.

One of the shows included scenes from various travel industries, including travel agents and holiday representatives with a group of friends booking their first ever holiday abroad.

The other show was based on famous television shows including top soap EastEnders and quiz show Mr & Mrs.

Both groups raised a combined total of about £445 for Macmillan, Help for Heroes and 4Louis from ticket sales, a raffle and refreshments.

The events were held at Earls High School in Halesowen.

## Mayor's last duty is a piece of cake



Steve and (right) Jayne Waltho, Debbie Barrett, Denise Hudson, Janet Hutchinson

IN his last official duty as the Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Steve Waltho cut a celebratory cake.

The borough's outgoing civic leader helped White House Cancer Support mark the 10th anniversary of its reconstruction group at their base in Ednam Road. The original group was founded in 1984 by cancer patient Elizabeth Harris.

The off-shoot was launched a decade ago after a chance meeting in a supermarket by breast cancer patients Denise Hudson and Debbie Barratt.

"They had both had reconstruction surgery and felt that women could benefit from a group specifically to support others considering surgery," said Pam Cartwright, the group's information officer.

The group has since helped dozens of women through breast cancer and subsequent surgery.

## Guidance

Pam said: "It can be quite a daunting process and many women find it very useful to be talked through what it entails."

"They can get information and guidance and find out actually how it feels, what emotions they go through as well as the surgery itself."

"They also find out about what services we can provide, such as various complementary therapies and group support."

"There's a lot of laughter at the meetings, it's a very happy group."

For further details contact (01384) 231232.

## Steelworkers on the march to save jobs

TWO dozen Black Country Tata workers joined hundreds of their colleagues for a march through central London yesterday (Wednesday) to keep pressure on the Government and the Indian steel giant to save thousands of threatened UK jobs.

The marchers were urging the Government to ensure a 'responsible' sale of Tata Steel's UK business and also calling for an industrial strategy to support the whole British steel industry in the future.

The march came the same day as Tata's board of directors meet in Mumbai to discuss the seven bids submitted on Monday to buy the company's British business.

Indian-owned Tata revealed earlier this year it was looking to sell or close its loss-making UK arm, which employs 11,000 including around 750 in the Black Country.

Tata steel workers in Wednesfield, Wednesbury, Walsall and Brierley Hill have travelled by coach to join other workers from across the UK at the march, organised by unions Community, GMB and Unite.

Community general secretary Roy Rickhuss said: "This will bring steelworkers to London delivering a clear message to Government: save our jobs, support our communities and deliver the fantastic future for British steelmaking we know it can have."

## Get ready for festive Madness in city centre

BRITISH pop legends Madness will be playing a pre-Christmas concert at Birmingham's Barclaycard Arena.

The band, releasing a new album Can't Touch Us Now in October, go on an 11-date tour in December, including the Birmingham city centre venue on Saturday, December 17.

Tickets for the Barclaycard Arena concert go on sale tomorrow (Friday) at 9am via [www.gigsandtours.com](http://www.gigsandtours.com) or [www.ticketmaster.co.uk](http://www.ticketmaster.co.uk).

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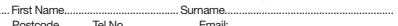


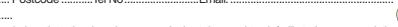


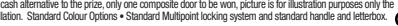






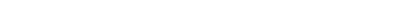
































































































































































# Hero coach driver rescued pupils from burning bus

"HE is a true hero and I would like to thank him sincerely," says Black Country headteacher Liz Hart after a coach driver rescued her pupils from a blazing bus.

A total of 59 children and seven staff from Brandthall Primary School in Oldbury were on board the double decker coach when the flames took hold as they travelled along the M6.

They were taken to safety by the driver of an empty coach who pulled over after seeing the fire.

Miss Hart hailed the driver, Paul Bingham, as a 'true hero'.

She said: "Looking at the pictures it is really just horrific. I would like to give a big shout out to Paul. He was driving his coach, which was empty, back to Wigan. He pulled over and stopped and made sure all our pupils were safe.

"He kept them at the side of the

motorway and stayed with them until the emergency services had taken control of the situation and then took our pupils and staff to the Motorcycle Museum at Coventry where they met with a replacement bus."

The year five pupils had been returning from a school trip to The National Space Centre in Leicester when the bus broke down near junction 3A for the M6 Toll at around 3.40pm on Monday.

Thirteen children and the driver were treated at the scene for smoke inhalation, while four 10-year-old girls went to Birmingham Children's Hospital but have since been allowed home.

The bus was destroyed by the fierce blaze. The incident triggered major delays on the M6.



The coach carrying primary school children from Oldbury caught fire while travelling on the M6

# Inspectors tell school to improve more quickly

A DUDLEY secondary school has been told its rate of improvement is 'too slow' following a monitoring visit from Ofsted.

Senior leaders and governors at Holly Hall Academy were said to be 'not taking effective action' to tackle areas highlighted for improvement identified in the school's previous inspection in May 2015.

On that occasion the academy was given a grade three rating overall, with all four key areas of leadership and management, pupil behaviour and safety, quality of teaching and achievement said to require improvement.

Following a monitoring visit on April 22, inspectors concluded that the rate of improvement – especially in the quality of teaching – had been 'too slow'.

The report said this was down to 'leaders and governors focusing their energies on addressing the school's financial and staffing issues'.

## Challenges

It said that Holly Hall was a school facing 'significant financial challenges' and 'legacy issues of staffing and leadership structures' and called for training in areas where it was most needed.

However, the report notes that the pace of improvement has increased since the arrival of new principal Rob Hatch last September.

It says pupils now receive better feedback, while teaching in science was improving due to 'good subject leadership'.

Inspector Alun Williams wrote: "The principal, supported by an increasingly effective senior leadership team, has brought a clear vision and a determination to improve Holly Hall."

"Senior leaders have an accurate understanding of

# OCD forum is being held by health trust

OBSSESSIVE Compulsive Disorder is the topic of a mental health forum organised by Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust next month.

The event on June 10 will focus on the disorder, commonly known as OCD. It takes place from 11am to 2pm at Brierley Hill Civic Hall in Bank Street.

"There are a number of misconceptions about obsessive compulsive disorder which is one reason we have decided to focus our next forum on the topic," said Olivia Clymer, a non-executive director of the Trust. "The anxiety-based condition goes far beyond regular hand washing or checking light switches. It can be so debilitating and disabling that the World Health Organisation has ranked OCD in the top 10 of the most disabling illnesses of any kind."

The event will feature guest speakers and lunch will be provided. To book email communication@dwmh.nhs.uk or call (01384) 325015.

# Euro cops join blitz on foreign criminals

MORE than 100 vehicles have been seized in the West Midlands and 39 people arrested in the first few days of a crackdown on crime involving foreign officers.

West Midlands Police have been working with police officers from Romania, Lithuania and Holland as part of Operation Trivium, which targets foreign national offenders in the UK.

The arrests include a 44-year-old Polish man, who was picked up at an address in Lozells and a 62-year-old Czech man who was stopped on Wednesday in a vehicle on the M5. They are wanted for fraud and burglary charges, respectively, in their home countries. The men were detained under European Arrest warrants and will now be deported.

Three Romanian men were arrested southbound on the M5 on suspicion of stealing TVs and wine from a Co-Op store in Staffordshire.

The week-long operation sees officers able to carry out swift intelligence checks on police systems across Europe and provide police patrols in the UK with background information on any foreign suspects they encounter.



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# Son left traumatised by knife attack on mother

'IT'S heartbreaking' - the words of a mother whose five-year-old son has been left traumatised after his father attacked her with a knife.

Karl Hughes, of George Close, Dudley, was jailed for 15 years last week for his brutal attack on Toni Bennett, when he slashed her knife with an eight-inch blade.

Miss Bennett and 31-year-old Hughes had been in a long-term relationship of 14 years and had three children together - Jessica, two, Alexander, five, and Josh, 10.

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard how Hughes' drinking and jealousy had driven a wedge between the pair and that they had decided he would move out of the family home.

However, after he had drunk nearly a bottle of vodka on November 21 last year he crept in through an unlocked window and attacked Miss Bennett with a knife, just yards away from their children.

#### Scars

She has been left with scars to her neck and still has not been able to return to her job as a nursery nurse.

Despite the scars, the most devastating impact for Miss Bennett has been the psychological trauma experienced by her children, who have had to undergo counselling.

Miss Bennett, 29, said: "My little girl is only two, so she's oblivious. But Alex, who is five, is having nightmares. 'He screams, cries and shouts out 'daddy, stop it' or 'daddy, don't do it'. He is dreaming of his dad attacking him."

"It's heartbreaking for all of us to see him that upset and that distressed at night. All I can do is cuddle him. None of the children should have had to see what happened."

Miss Bennett said sitting in the courtroom was an emotional experience, but she needed to do it to be able to move on with her life. She said: "I was shaking when I was in there but I had to do it for closure for myself,"



Karl Hughes is serving 15 years in jail after attacking his former partner



Toni Bennett shows the scar on her neck after the vicious knife attack

for what he did to me. I wanted to look him in the face and show that he hasn't ruined my life."

During the sentencing, Hughes' lawyer Mr Simon Hanns mentioned his 'remorse' and his desire to apologise. But Miss Bennett said no apology could make up for her former partner's actions.

"When they said that I just shook my head," she said. "He could say sorry a thousand times but I'm not going to forgive him for what he has done and put our three children through. It's awful. He has to face the consequences for his actions."

Hughes admitted attempting to

murder Miss Bennett and possession of cannabis.

Mr Hanns said the behaviour 'was out of character' for Hughes, who was 'genuinely remorseful'.

#### Shoulder

He was jailed for 15 years and three months for attempted murder and one month for possession of cannabis, to run concurrently, and ordered to pay £120.

The court heard Hughes had 'frozen' when the pair's elder son, then aged nine, appeared but then shoved the knife into Miss Bennett's shoulder.

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# Hitch a ride with Catfish and co

## ALBUMS

by Leon Burakowski

CATFISH and the Bottlemen seem to confirm my suspicion that scruffy leather-jacketed youths from unfashionable towns make the best rock music.

Second album *The Ride*, the first with Johnny Bond replacing Billy Bibby on guitar, sees the Llandudno quartet more than live up to the promise of their hit debut album *The Balcony*.

Frontman Ryan Evan 'Van' McCann sings 'I don't think things through' on swaggering melodic rocker 7 which kicks things off for a series of songs about drink-fuelled love affairs, broken hearts and jealousy.

Highlights include pounding new single Twice with its incendiary guitar, future fans' favourite Heathrow and monster hit-in-waiting Oxygen (imagine Thin Lizzy playing 10CC's Rubber Bullets, if you're old enough). Songs about teenage (or early 20s) kicks haven't sounded so good in a long time.

Corinne Bailey Rae returns six years on from her grief-stricken album *The Sea*, recorded after her husband's death, and ten years since she had a major hit with the bright and breezy Put Your Records On.

New album *The Heart Speaks In Whispers* is a sophisticated set, as much influenced by jazz as soul with subtle use of electronics.

In songs such as Tell Me there is a sense of optimism, tempered by experience and a certain wistfulness. Highlights include the ballad Hey I Won't Break Your Heart, potent opener The Skies Will Break and the little funky Green Aphrodisiac. Her soulful voice really shines on the gentle Do You Ever



Catfish and the Bottlemen more than live up to the promise of *The Balcony*

Think Of Me, the urbane Horse Print Dress, poignant Caramel and jazzy closer Night.

The Yorkshire-born songstress will be special guest of Motown legend Lionel Richie at Birmingham's Barclaycard Arena on Thursday, July 7.

Former lead singer of Sheffield band The Long Blondes, Kate Jackson, is back with a solo album, *British Road Movies*. The artist, singer and songwriter has found a perfect collaborator in former Suede guitarist Bernard Butler, who has helped create the musical moods and guitar licks to complement her hit-the-road lust for life.

Highlights include the Go-Gos meet synth-driven 80s feel of The End of Reason, escapist anthem Wonder Feeling and the reverb drenched 60s-flavoured Lie to Me.

Guitarist Butler also features on Fever Dream, the third solo album from Ben Watt, former partner with Tracey Thorn in Everything But The Girl. EBTG specialised in chillin' electronica, Watt prefers a more stripped back approach, returning to the kind of classic singer-songwriter material that the likes of

Justin Hayward, Al Stewart and Elton John specialised in during the 1970s. It suits his mellow vocals and his songs are eloquent, enhanced by Butler's slightly distorted guitar motifs. Standouts include the melancholy beauty of Bricks And Wood, his duet with Marissa Nadler on New Year Of Grace, the sunnery, almost Chris Rea-like Faces Of My Friends, whilst Running With The Front Runners is the closest to the chilled grooves of EBTG.

Watt is in concert at the Hare and Hounds, Kings Heath, on June 10.

Tragedy and hard luck stories have long been the raw diet of country music and never sound better than when the singer has actually lived the drama. So it is that Margo Price, who has overcome family tragedy and financial problems (she had to pawn her wedding ring to pay for her first recording sessions), brings a sense of authenticity as well as a classic country voice to her debut *Midwest Farmer's Daughter*. But she never resorts to self-pity, always feisty on an album which encompasses ballads, honky tonk, blues and rockabilly.

## REVIEW

By Mark Shipp

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton

WEARY and drained after a hard deadly day slog, I'm not sure I was in the mood for this. In fact, I could have made a deal with the stage hand: 'I close my eyes and you draw back the curtain.'

And while any dream would do for Joseph, mine would be that I woke up and believed I'd enjoyed the show.

But I actually did. It was vibrant, lively, spectacular and all manner of similar superlatives.

Joe McElderry took on the lead role as the boy who dared to dream and showed a good stage presence to go with his voice.

The mere mention of his name before the production had even started had some of the massed ranks whooping.

### Storyline

All his songs, including the memorable Close Every Door and Any Dream Will Do, were delivered with such clarity. It is still hard to believe Phillip Schofield once made the role his own.

There was no dialogue, so the audience had to follow the storyline through the singing alone. However, it was well told.

Joseph, the favourite of Jacob's 12 sons, is given a coat of many colours, but is disowned by his brothers who sell him off as a slave and pretend he is dead.

His Egyptian master Potiphar throws him in jail over a mistaken belief of a liaison with his wife.

But when he interprets the Pharaoh's dreams and foretells great riches



Joe McElderry, who stars as Joseph at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

for the country, he becomes a powerful man.

His brothers flock to Egypt to beg for food and forgiveness and, after witnessing their selflessness over a 'stolen' golden cup, Joseph reveals himself and a reunion is complete.

But this was certainly no Joe McElderry show. Lucy Kay, a Britain's Got Talent finalist, could certainly belt out a note and was perfect as the narrator – and is attractive to boot, while Emilianna Stamatakis, in his UK tour debut, was stunning as the Pharaoh.

While supposedly playing the role as Elvis, he could easily pass as a tribute to the likes of Billy Fury or Tom Jones should the chance arise.

And then there was the Joseph choir, 33 youngsters from Stagecoach of Sutton Coldfield and Solihull, whose performance could be summed up in just one word: 'Wow!'

There was raucous applause at the end from a packed crowd, but the encore did go on a bit. Or did I just dream that?

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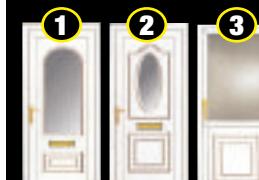
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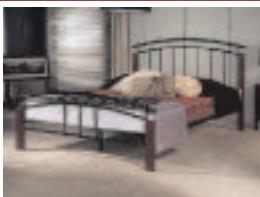
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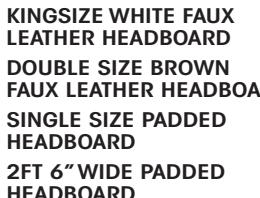
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# Tributes as speedway fan dies in caravan fire

TRIBUTES have poured in to a well-known figure on the West Midlands speedway scene who was the victim of a blaze at a caravan park.

Speedway fanatic Clive Molloy died in the fire on St James Caravan Park in New Road. It was caused by an electric blanket.

Mr Molloy, believed to be in his early 70s, was called a 'lovely man' by friends and neighbours, who said they were shocked by his sudden death.

Emergency services were called to the caravan park in the early hours of May 16.

Fire Investigation Officer Tim Hollingworth said: "This was a tragic accident that may have been avoided. We cannot stress enough the importance of ensuring that your electric blanket is safe to use.

"The consequences of using older or faulty electric blankets can be devastating."

"It is important to get your blanket checked to make sure it is still safe to use – ideally this should be once a year by a competent electrician.

"If in doubt – throw them out. The risks just aren't worth taking."

Tributes have been paid from speedway figures. Mr Molloy was a machine examiner at Wolverhampton's Monmore Green Stadium but was also a hugely popular figure at Perry Barr too.

"He was a man who loved his speedway, loved praising the riders if they'd

had a good night and would be keen to pick their heads up if they'd had an off night.

"He was an infectious character who would also go out of his way to do a favour for anyone.

"Clive will be sadly missed in the speedway community and we would like to pass on our condolences to his family and close friends."

A friend of Clive's from speedway, Andy Hawthorne, said: "You couldn't not like him, he never forgot a name or a face and all of the riders had time for him."



Victim Clive Molloy



The scene of the caravan blaze in caravan, in which Clive Molloy died

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# Man died after taking cocaine laced with an anaesthetic

Uber is no threat to us, says taxi leader



Not Uber worried – Shaz Saleem, the Chairman of Dudley Private Hire and Taxi Association

THE chairman of Dudley Private Hire and Taxi Association believes drivers have nothing to fear from the arrival of phone app cab business Uber in the Black Country.

It has launched services in Dudley, Wolverhampton, and Walsall which see customers download an app, allowing them to order a car directly from the nearest driver. No calls have to be made and no cash changes hands as payments are made online.

But Shaz Saleem, a spokesman for Dudley cabbies, said the traditional way of booking a car over the phone would still valued by customers.

"I think it's all hype at the moment and once that dies down I don't think it's going to affect anyone really," he said. "We have a lot of traditional customers in Dudley and I think elsewhere in the Black Country too."

"People like to do their business over the phone because it gives them more confidence, rather than using an app or sending an email and hoping for the best."

## Motorcycle race champion in road safety plea

A CHAMPION motorcycle racer from the Black Country has pleaded with motorists to watch out for riders during the busy summer months.

The better weather brings out many more motorcyclists, particularly during weekends and Bank Holidays on the popular routes from the Black Country into rural Shropshire.

Michael Rutter, a British motorcycle racer who competes in the National Superstock 1000 Championship, urged car drivers to check for motorcyclists when making manoeuvres in a bid to cut the biker toll on the region's roads.

Mr Rutter, 44, who grew

up in Brierley Hill and now lives in Bridgnorth, said: "It is a tragic thing but accidents do happen. The thing for motorcyclists is to be as obvious as possible, be as colourful and bright as possible. Wear day-glo or bright colours and keep your lights on."

"For car drivers, until you have ridden a motorcycle you don't know how car drivers approach you. Car drivers need to look twice, look three times and keep on checking."

Earlier this month a motorcyclist was killed in a collision involving a car near to Rushmore Filling Station, between Bridgnorth and Six Ashes.

A MAN died after a night out when a dodgy batch of cocaine he took was laced with a fatal amount of anaesthetic.

Ashley Neil Whittle, 26, of Brierley Hill, was found fitting in his bedroom by his mother after returning home from a night out on October 16 last year.

He was rushed to Russells Hall Hospital from his home in White City Road after taking a drug which had been mixed with lignocaine, but it was too late and he was pronounced dead on arrival.

Bonita Poole, coroner's officer, told Black Country Coroner's Court: "He was taken to Russells Hall Hospital after being found in his bedroom by his mum after a night out. He was pronounced dead at the hospital at around 3.15am."

"He had recently broken up with his girlfriend and had started going on nights out a bit more often. Cocaine and alcohol were found in his system from the toxicology reports."

By Nick Humphreys

His brother Aaron told the court that the electrical engineer had been a bit upset but had never taken drugs on another occasion as far as he was aware.

### Jolly

He said: "He was a jolly person, very funny. He would do anything for you. We were very close."

"He seemed a little bit upset but he was just getting on with it, like we all do. He was just going out and having a good time. He had gone to the pub on the Thursday with his friend, they normally had a Thursday meet up. He hadn't taken drugs before that I know of."

Zafar Siddique, senior coroner for the Black Country, said: "He only had a small amount of cocaine in his blood stream, around one tenth of what you would normally consider a potentially fatal dose. He was twice the drink-drive limit but

didn't have what you would consider a life-threatening amount in his system."

"What was also found in his system was lignocaine, a substance which is normally used as an anaesthetic to put people to sleep. There was 21mg of lignocaine per litre of blood. The usual amount that would be administered to put someone to sleep would be 1 to 5 mg."

Mr Siddique continued: "It is unlikely he took it on its own, it is more probable that it would have been mixed with the cocaine. It would have been mixed in to try and boost the cocaine, you never get it in its pure form. That is what will have stopped his heart and stopped him from breathing."

He told the family: "This is a tragic waste of a young man's life. I can't begin to imagine the grief and devastation that you must be feeling."

"Time after time I see the damaging effects on families who have lost a loved one to a drug-related death."

## Campaign to save school seems lost

COSELEY School will close if councillors rubber-stamp recommendations today (Thursday). Thousands of parents battling to save the school have been left devastated by Dudley education chief Councillor Ian Cooper's comments that there is 'no alternative' to closure.

The school is set to undergo a 'phased closure', if proposals due to go before Dudley Council's cabinet are passed.

Parent Michaela Garbett, of Roseville, urged the council to rethink the move, having collected more than 2,000 signatures on a petition to keep the school open.

She argued that closure would disrupt pupils' education and put a strain on neighbouring schools, with pupils already moving to High Arcal and Dormston schools.

Mrs Garbett, who moved her daughter to High Arcal School last month, said parents feared the worse and were feeling 'very downhearted'.

Coseley East Councillor Star Anderton blasted the council comments seeming to seal closure before the formal decision had been made. She added: "I think it's wholly unfair on all the children."

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REPLICAS of Anglo-Saxon treasures are coming to Haden Hill House as an exhibition about the discovery of the famous Staffordshire Hoard opens at the site.

The display from June 4 until July 3 includes replicas, videos and hands-on activities.

The hoard is the largest collection of Anglo-Saxon gold and silver metalwork ever found and comes from the Kingdom of Mercia, the old name for the Midlands.

The objects were discovered in a field near Lichfield in 2009 and consist of more than 3,500 items dating to the 600s or 700s AD.

Sandwell Council's museums manager Jane Hanney said: "The story of this Anglo-Saxon treasure is fascinating and so important to shedding light on the history of our local area."

## Fundraising packs a punch

A FUNDRAISING Cradley gym boss is again gearing up to raise money for charity as he prepares to enter the boxing ring for Macmillan Cancer Support.

Two years ago Wayne Scott-Fox, of Golden Gloves, started fundraising for good causes. With boxers Les Byfield and Lee Jeavons, his next big event is on August 27 at The Arena on Hagley Road, Stourbridge, for Macmillan. Tickets cost £20 with ringside tables at £350.

## FOCUS ON CRADLEY & CRADLEY HEATH

# Car enthusiast crushed under vehicle is named

A MAN who died when he was crushed by a car at a storage yard in Cradley has been named locally as Michael Ashton.

Emergency services were called to the industrial estate in James Scott Road at 5pm on Thursday but were unable to save the 64-year-old father from Dudley.

It is believed the victim was working underneath the car when it slipped off a jack and fell onto him.

Motoring enthusiast Mr Ashton used the site frequently to fix up cars.

Workers from a nearby firm have told how they had rushed to free him from beneath the car.

Roy Brettle, who owns the storage yard where the accident occurred, described Mr Ashton as a 'jolly person'.

Mr Brettle, 67, said: "He used to use the yard to mess about with cars, it was his hobby. He used to drive lorries but when he got to 64 he couldn't do it any longer so used to do odd jobs. He was helpful and very jolly. It is very sad what has happened."

Mr Brettle explained that Mr Ashton was working on a gear box on a Vauxhall car when it fell on top of him.

The Health and Safety Executive has launched an investigation. Police are not treating the death as suspicious.

One of the people from a nearby firm who tried to help Mr Ashton, but asked not be named, said: "We phoned an ambulance and jacked the car up and managed to drag him out. The emergency services were telling us to check if he had a pulse but unfortunately it was too late. There is a possibility that he could have been there for some time."

Mr Ashton, who lived in Dudley town centre, is believed to have been married with a son and a daughter.

Mr Brettle said he had used the yard for around three years but was visited intermittently, sometimes only once a month. He added: "He only did it for a hobby. He liked motorbikes mostly, he used to have vintage motorbikes."

Around a dozen vehicles are currently stored at the yard.



The Rt Rev Graham Usher appears to sprout wings as he unveils the steel bench

## Angelic art is unveiled by bishop

AN angelic-looking Bishop of Dudley was on hand to unveil a heavenly sculpture outside a church in Cradley.

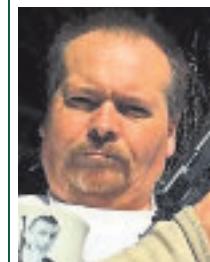
The Rt Rev Graham Usher appeared to sprout a set of wings as he led a service at St Peter's Church in Cradley.

But the wings were a work of art, which were shown to the public for the first time.

The angel wings sculpture is the creation of Black Country artist Luke Perry who was commissioned by the church to make the impressive winged steel bench.

Mr Perry, from Cradley Heath, was keen to help the church with which he has family links, as four generations of the 32-year-old's family are buried in its cemetery.

The sculpture took around six weeks to make and has been galvanised, which should protect it from weathering for the next 80 years.



Marksman Carl Robinson

AS a therapist Carl Robinson is used to targeting aches and pains but on Bank Holiday Monday the 50-year-old will be facing a completely different target challenge. He will be taking part in a sponsored rifle and pistol shoot to raise funds for Dudley-based White House Cancer Support (WHCS).

Mr Robinson, from Cradley Heath and a member of The British Association for Shooting and Conservation, has been working as a part-time therapist at the charity in Ednam Road for two years and regularly administers aromatherapy to clients. His love of target shooting goes back to his school days and by the age of 24 he was shooting for England and ranked 47th in the country. He said: "It's always been a passion of mine so this year I decided to organise a shoot to raise funds for WHCS."

To sponsor Carl contact WHCS on (01384) 231232.

## Independent Family Owned Funeral Directors



### Trevor E.W. Hickton Ltd

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8-11 Lower High Street

Cradley Heath

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#### About The Company

Trevor EW Hickton Funeral Directors are a long established firm based in Cradley Heath. Formerly known as J.E.W. Hickton & Sons the company was established in 1909 and has been serving Cradley Heath, Halesowen and all the surrounding towns and areas since. In 1909 Joe Hickton a well known carpenter, builder, undertaker, local councillor and one time Mayor of Rowley Regis, opened a dedicated funeral home located in Lower High Street, Cradley Heath to focus on the funeral directing side of business. Along with his wife Rose, the local midwife. They became a large part of the local community, with the local saying being "she brings them in to the world, and he takes them out!" Their son William 'Bill' Hickton came in to the business in 1937 and the father and son partnership began carrying out funerals across Cradley Heath and the surrounding areas, with Bill eventually taking over the business in 1957 after Joe retired. Bill's son Trevor came in to the business in 1971 working closely with his father to continue building the company reputation.

Trevor inherited J.E.W. Hickton Funeral Directors after his father Bill passed away in 2000. In 2005 the company was registered as a Limited UK company along with a name change to what it is today, Trevor E.W. Hickton Ltd Funeral Directors. Trevor's son Ross came in to the business in 2006, followed by his other son Greg in 2010 and finally by his daughter Jodie in 2014.

The family all work together along with a team of long standing and hard working staff. The office staff comprise of former Springfield Post Office manager Mandy Parsons, who looks after the ongoing funeral arrangements assisted by Jodie, and Kate Davis who has worked for the company for 15 years. Kate is also the company Stone Masonry manager.

In 2014 a brand new dedicated funeral home was built on the grounds of the original funeral home in Lower High Street, to support the needs of the business. Now with three private chapels of rest, three family arrangement rooms and a private working office. The company is able to cater to all needs and requirements of their clients in a friendly and inviting funeral home.

In 2015 the decision was made to renovate the funeral home in Colley Gate with a new reception area and particularly a new shop frontage.

The office name was changed to incorporate the Hickton name as many local families were using the office who had before came to Hicktons in Cradley Heath at their time of need, they now have a closer location.

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## Purr-fect night out

Claws out  
on stage  
Page 23



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**Bev's back**

Home gig – Page 23

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# Cats lovers will be feline groovy

ANDREW Lloyd Webber's record-breaking 2015 Olivier award nominated musical Cats returns to Birmingham direct from its sell-out seasons at the London Palladium for one week only.

Adapted from TS Eliot's 'Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats', Cats returned to the West End in December last year, with a sell-out run at the London Palladium, reuniting the original creative team - director Trevor Nunn, associate director and choreographer Gillian Lynne, designer John Napier and composer Lloyd Webber.

Cats is a dazzling blend of fantasy, drama and romance about one special night of the year when all the Jellicle cats meet at the Jellicle Ball where their wise leader, Old Deuteronomy, will announce which of them will be reborn.

The show, which first opened in the West End in 1981, is full of amazing choreography and memorable songs, including the timeless Memory, sung by glamour cat fallen on hard times Grizabella.

Recently in the West End Grizabella was played by Wolverhampton's Beverley Knight and at Birmingham Hippodrome, from Monday to Saturday, the role is due to be played by Filipino actress and singer, Joanna Ampil, former star of Miss Saigon.



Victoria the White Cat in a scene from Andrew Lloyd Webber's Cats

## Bev's back in Soulville

WOLVERHAMPTON-BORN Queen of UK Soul Beverley Knight is looking forward to a 'sweaty, up-tempo' homecoming gig in Wolverhampton tonight (Thursday) as part of her 2016 UK tour, which also includes a concert in Birmingham next week.

The star, who recently turned 43, can't wait to perform at the Slade Rooms and admitted it would have been 'ridiculous' for her not to take to the stage in front of her biggest fans.

She will be entertaining with songs from her new album, Soulville, which she recorded in Memphis and is released on June 10, as well as her hits and songs from the West End shows she has appeared in.

The former Woodfield and Highfields pupil said: "It was going to do my head in, not doing a show in Wolverhampton. It would have been the first time ever on one of my tours that I didn't play there, which would have been ridiculous."

"It's just been finding somewhere to play with the Civic Hall being closed for refurbishments. But the Slade Rooms became available. I'm really looking forward to it."

"It's a smaller venue so it's going to be more of a sweaty club, up-tempo gig. That's what I'm planning for it. It'll be a mixture of songs from the new album and older ones, as well as a bit of what I've been up to in the West End."

She added: "It's always a good excuse to go home and see everybody as well. People are so supportive back home. I try to get back to Wolverhampton as much as I can, I've got a big family and there's normally someone's birthday, so that's a good excuse."

"It's a bit more difficult when you're in West End shows to get the time away, so I'm making the most of not being in a show at the moment."

The soul legend, who was made an MBE for her creative and charity work in 2007, is looking forward to giving Wolverhampton a sneaky peek of material from her new album, her first in four years. She added: "I'm just so thrilled with it, it's a proper soul experience."

Beverley plays the Symphony Hall on Thursday, June 2.

**'It's going to be a sweaty club, up-tempo gig'**



## Mothers reunion celebrates venue

BACK in the late 1960s the hippest rock venue in Brum was found above a furniture store on Erdington High Street.

Among the acts performed, and sometimes recorded, at Mothers were Pink Floyd, The Who (performing Tommy) and a local band called Black Sabbath, who soon became known for their flamboyant frontman.

After some 400 gigs, the club closed in 1971, and 45 years on Mothers veterans the Steve Gibbons Band, Terry Reid, Edgar Broughton and Del Bromham from Stray are celebrating the venue at the Robin 2 in Bilston on Saturday night.

Tickets are £21.50 (£19.50 advance).

## Shadowlands play at Birmingham Rep

THE critically-acclaimed production of William Nicholson's moving play, Shadowlands, comes to Birmingham Repertory Theatre from Tuesday to Saturday (June 4).

It examines the private life of celebrated author CS Lewis, author of the Narnia stories, and his affair with feisty American poet, Joy Davidman.

The cast of Shadowlands is led by Stephen Boxer (Humans, The Iron Lady, Doctors) as CS Lewis, Denis Lill (The Royal, Only Fools And Horses) as Major WH Lewis and Amanda Ryan (Shameless) as Joy Davidman. Tickets cost from £13.50 to £35, call 0121 236 4455.

## Eighth stage for Slam Dunk Festival

ROCK festival Slam Dunk has added an eighth stage for its tenth anniversary, being held in the Genting Arena at Birmingham NEC on Sunday.

The extra stage will highlight solo and acoustic acts and will be headlined by Bryce Avary of The Rocket Summer.

The festival, which has moved from Wolverhampton to Brum due to the refurbishment of the Civic Hall, will feature more than 45 acts - including from Las Vegas headliners Panic! at the Disco, 2 Tone legends The Beat, Of Mice & Men, New Found Glory, The Story So Far, Qemists, Zebrahead, Every Time I Die, and Mallory Knox.

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## CHOICE



Luke Pasqualino

The Musketeers  
(BBC1, 9.30pm)

New series. In war-torn France, the battle-scarred swordsmen reunite to rescue orphans from brutal mercenary Lucien Grimaud. Meanwhile, a sinister new battle awaits in the form of corrupt governor Feron. Matthew McNulty and Rupert Everett join the cast, with Luke Pasqualino, Tom Burke, Howard Charles and Santiago Cabrera starring as d'Artagnan, Athos, Porthos and Aramis. Based on the characters created by Alexandre Dumas.

12.05 Film: The Tuxedo. (2002) 1.40 Weather for the Week Ahead. 1.45 BBC News.

## BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. 11.30 Mary Berry Cooks. (R) 12.00 BBC News: Weather. 12.10 Bargain Hunt. (R) 1.00 Homes Under the Hammer. (R) 1.30 Gymnastics: Men's European Championships. Coverage of the men's team competition. 4.15 Escape to the Country. (R) 5.00 Can't Touch This. Obstacle course game show, presented by Zoo Ball and Ashley Banjo. 5.50 BBC News.

6.00 Regional Programme.

6.10 Pointless Celebrities. A "law and order" special. (R) 1.15 with Helen Fraser, Victoria Derbyshire, Robert Peston, Charlie Elphicke, Arthur Bostrom, Mina Anwar, Dominic Littlewood and Matt Allwright. Last in the series.

7.00 Michael McIntyre's Big Show.

The comedian hosts his final evening of entertainment and introduces music by All Saints, while Alex Jones hands over her mobile phone in Celebrity Send to All. Last in the series.

7.50 The National Lottery: It's to Win It. Dame Winton hosts the quiz show in which five contestants answer questions to scoop a big cash prize. Includes the National Lottery draws with a performance by Samantha Barks.

8.40 Casualty. Big Mac struggles to hide the toll his addiction is taking and steals some painkillers, while Robyn is determined to bring David out of his shell.

9.30 The Musketeers. New series. The battle-scarred swordsmen reunite to rescue orphans from a brutal mercenary. Matthew McNulty and Rupert Everett join the cast.

10.30 BBC News: Weather; National Lottery Update.

10.50 Peter Kay's Comedy Shuffle. A final selection from the career of the comedian, actor, writer and director, featuring Peter appearing with Catherine Tate's Nan as well as his observations on family weddings and more of Max and Paddy's misadventures. Last in the series. (R)

11.20 Live at the Apollo. Greg Davies hosts another session of stand-up at Hammersmith Apollo in west London, warming up the audience for Hal Cruttenden and Simon Evans. (R)

12.05 Film: The Tuxedo. (2002) 1.40 Weather for the Week Ahead. 1.45 BBC News.

## BBC2

6.30 Homes Under the Hammer. (R) 7.30 Film: Death of a Scoundrel. (1956) 9.25 Film: The Glass Bottom Boat. (1961) 11.10 Natural World. (R) 12.00 The Hail Bikers: Berrybyle Guitars. (R) 1.00 Film: Father of the Bride. (1950) Comedy, starring Spencer Tracy and Elizabeth Taylor. 2.30 Fog It! (R) 3.20 The Great British Sewing Bee. (R) 4.20 The Great British Sewing Bee. (R) 5.20 This Week's World.

6.00 Golf: PGA Highlights. Action from the BMW PGA Championship, the European Tour event taking place on the West Course at the Wentworth Club in Surrey. South Korea's An Byeong-hun triumphed here in 2015, with his overall score of 21-under-par ensuring he finished five strokes clear of his nearest competitors.

7.00 Nick Baker's Wild West. The naturalist explores the wildlife-rich wetlands of south-west England, including two stunning Somerset reserves. Last in the series. Postponed from May 20.

7.30 RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2016. Monty Don and Joe Swift present a look back at the highlights of the past week at the horticultural showcase.

8.30 Dad's Army. Captain Mainwaring and the platoon are asked to provide a guard of honour for a royal train carrying George VI that is passing through Walmington-on-Sea, but another locomotive comes to the rescue. (R) Comedy first broadcast in 1973, starring Arthur Lowe, John Le Mesurier and Clive Dunn. (R)

9.00 The Secret of Beethoven's Fifth Symphony. Conductor John Eliot Gardiner looks at the story behind the famous piece of music, the opening notes of which are among the most recognisable in history. Gardiner investigates what the German composer was trying to express when he wrote the piece, and looks at the exciting and dangerous times that shaped Beethoven both personally and creatively.

10.30 Artsnight. (R)

11.00 Film: The Prestige. (2006) Two Victorian magicians become bitter rivals as one becomes obsessed with the secret to the other's greatest illusion. Mystery thriller, starring Hugh Jackman.

1.00 Film: The Disappearance of Alice Creed. (2009) 2.35 This Is BBC Two.

## ITV

6.00 CITV: The Aquabats! Super Show! 6.25 Pat & Stan. (R) 6.35 Dino Dan. (R) 6.45 Dino Dan. (R) 7.00 Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) 7.15 The Storyteller. (R) 7.15 Super 4. (R) 7.30 Nerds & Monks. (R) 7.45 The Storyteller. (R) 7.45 Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) 8.00 Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) 8.25 ITV News. 8.30 Weekend. 9.25 Murder, She Wrote. (R) 10.20 Murder, She Wrote. (R) 11.20 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. 12.10 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 1.15 Film: Murder on the Orient Express. (1974) Agatha Christie mystery, starring Albert Finney. 3.50 Film: Kindergarten Cop. (1990) Comedy, starring Arnold Schwarzenegger.

6.00 Regional Programme; Weather. 6.10 ITV News: Weather.

6.25 Bang on the Money. Rickie

Haywood-Williams and Melvin Odum host the game show in which two teams of friends must battle it out to hit a specific target number "bang on" in a series of physical and mental challenges. At the end of the contest, the most successful group could win up to £40,000. This week's teams are the Suits from London and Team Samanda from the Wirral.

7.30 Britain's Got Talent: Live Final. After weeks of tough auditions and five fiercely competitive semi-finals, the national talent search comes to a close as the remaining acts perform one last time. The hour-long show will culminate in a competition to win a coveted slot at this year's Royal Variety Performance and get their hands on the £250,000 cash prize. All they have to do is impress the voting public, as the opinions of judges Simon Cowell, David Williams, Amanda Holden and Alesha Dixon count for nothing – who wins is entirely down to the viewers at home.

Plus, to celebrate 10 series of the show, tonight also sees a special "best of" performance orchestrated by Diversity's Ashley Banjo. Presented by Ant and Dec. Last in the series.

10.00 Let's Do It: A Tribute to Victoria Wood. Celebration of the late comedian's work. (R)

11.00 ITV News: Weather.

11.15 UEFA Champions League Final Highlights. Real Madrid v Atletico Madrid.

12.20 Jackpot247. 3.00 Murder, She Wrote. (R) 3.50 ITV Nightscreen.

## CHANNEL 4

6.10 Cycling: Velotron Wales. 7.05 Motor Sport: Mini Challenge. 7.35 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.00 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.30 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 9.00 The Morning Line. 10.30 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 11.30 The Superhumans Show. 11.30 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 12.30 The Simpsons. (R) 1.00 The Simpsons. (R) 1.30 Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Haydock Park and Chester. 4.15 A Place in the Sun. 5.15 Channel 4 News. 5.45 Formula 1: Monaco Grand Prix Qualifying Highlights.

7.30 Guy Martin: Last Flight of the Vulcan Bomber. The mechanic joins a select crew of engineers working to prepare the last Vulcan bomber that is capable of flight for a farewell tour of the UK. The programme features contributions from former crew members, who recall its service in conflicts from the 1950s to the Falklands, as well as serving Britain's nuclear deterrent. (R)

9.00 NCIS: Los Angeles. A man who stole a car and ran down and killed one of his pursuers before escaping is identified as Walton Flynn, an ex-marine now working for a private security firm in Iraq. Sam and Callen learn that the businessman he had been hired to protect had been murdered and that the people chasing him were hired by his employers to dish out to steal the device. Action thriller.

11.10 Film: End of Days. (1999) A former police officer protects an innocent woman from the Devil, who plans to bring about Armageddon. Supernatural thriller, starring Arnold Schwarzenegger and Gabriel Byrne.

1.30 Hollyoaks. Omnibus. Scott organises a surprise for John Paul at The Folly, while Sienna feels under pressure. Elsewhere, Darren bets on how long Trevor and Grace's marriage will last. (R) 3.35 Posh Palmabrokers. Dan takes his sister to test drive a new truck. Wendy takes a look across a handbag that could be very valuable, and Lucy and Neil examine some works of art bought in a pub. (R) 4.30 Win It Cook It. Simon Rimmer and guest judge Rachel Allen challenge the competitors to make a meal from cocktail sausages, ketchup and bananas. 4.55 Fifteen to One. Sandy Toksvig hosts the general knowledge quiz, in which 15 contestants test themselves against their rivals. (R)

## CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! 8.55 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) 9.30 The Saturday Show Live. 11.30 Funnies Fails, Falls & Flings. (R) 12.00 Police Interceptors. (R) 1.00 Police Interceptors. (R) 3.00 Police Interceptors. (R) 4.00 Police Interceptors. (R) 5.00 Can't I Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R)

6.00 Can't I Pay? We'll Take It Away. High Court enforcement agents Paul Bohill and Steve Pinner are in Birmingham on a potentially dangerous, full-scale eviction of a large traveller community. (R)

6.55 5 News Weekend.

7.00 Cricket on 5. England v Sri Lanka. Highlights from the second day of the second Test in a three-match series, which takes place at Emirates Durham International Cricket Ground. Presented by Mark Nicholas, who also comments alongside Michael Vaughan, Geoffroy Boycott, and Simon Hughes.

8.00 NCIS: Los Angeles. A man who stole a car and ran down and killed one of his pursuers before escaping is identified as Walton Flynn, an ex-marine now working for a private security firm in Iraq. Sam and Callen learn that the businessman he had been hired to protect had been murdered and that the people chasing him were hired by his employers to dish out to steal the device. Action thriller.

10.00 The Championship Final: Football League Tonight. Sheffield Wednesday v Hull City. Kelly Cates and George Riley present action from the Championship play-off final at Wembley Stadium.

10.45 The 80s: The Best of Bad TV. A look back at memorable TV highlights from the 1980s, focusing on the best and worst that the decade had to offer. (R)

12.15 SuperCasino. 3.10 Police Interceptors. (R) 4.00 Secrets of the Valley of the Kings. (R)

## DIGITAL

BBC Four

7.00 Venice 8.00 Hidden Killers of the Post-War Home. 9.00 The Disappearance of 10.40 Mumford & Sons at Radio 1's Big Weekend 11.40 Pop Charts Britannia: 60 Years of the Top 10. 1.10 Tales from the Tour Bus: Rock 'n' Roll on the Road 2.10 Top of the Pops: 1981 3.25 Sounds of the Eighties 3.50 Close

ITV2

11.20 The Cube 12.25 Film: A Little Princess (1995) 1.25 FYI Daily 1.30 Film: A Little Princess (1995) 2.20 Scorpion 3.20 Film: Uncle Buck (1989) 4.20 FYI Daily 4.25 Film: Uncle Buck (1989) 5.10 Film: The Smurfs 2 (2013) 6.10 FYI Daily 6.15 Film: The Smurfs 2 (2013) 7.00 Film: Uncle Buck (2006) 8.00 20 FYI Daily 8.25 Film: Hulk (2003) 10.00 Britain's Got More Talent 11.00 Family Guy 12.30 American Dad! 2.25 The Cleveland Show 2.20 Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records 2.40 Teleshopping 5.40 ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3

12.35 The Return of Sherlock Holmes 2.55 Foyle's War 4.55 Rosemary & Thyme 7.00 Doc Martin 8.00 Foyle's War 10.00 Lewis 12.00 Trial & Retribution 1.05 Northern Lights 2.00 ITV3 Nightscreen 2.30 teleshopping

ITV4

9.00 Cycling: Tour Series Highlights 10.00 Premiership Rugby Union 11.00 Film: The Long Kiss Goodnight (1996) 11.00 Lewis 12.00 Trial & Retribution

12.10 FYI Daily 12.15 Film: The Long Kiss Goodnight (1996) 1.25 Hell on Wheels 2.25 Tommy Cooper 2.55 ITV4 Nightscreen 3.00 teleshopping

E4

11.20 Brooklyn Nine-Nine 12.30 How I Met Your Mother 1.30 The Goldbergs 3.00 Brooklyn Nine-Nine 4.00 Film: Maid in Manhattan (2002) 6.05 The Big Bang Theory 9.00 Film: Battle: Los Angeles (2011) 11.20 Gogglebox 1.30 The 2016 Billboard Music Awards 3.20 Gogglebox 4.10 Rude (ish) Tube 4.35 Revenge

Film4

11.00 Marmaduke (2010) 1.00 Ice Age: Continental Drift (2012) 2.45 Tooth Fairy (2010) 4.50 Sister Act (1992) 6.50 The Golden Compass (2007) 9.00 The Mortal Instruments: City of Bones (2013) A teenager discovers she is part of a race of magical beings tasked with defending the world from demons. Fantasy adventure, with Lily Collins. 11.35 Wanted (2008) Action adventure, starring James McAvoy and Angelina Jolie. 1.45 Chronicle (2012) Sci-fi thriller, starring Dane DeHaan. 3.30 Close

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## CHOICE



Chris Evans

## Top Gear (BBC2, 8pm)

New series. The motoring show returns with new hosts Chris Evans and Matt LeBlanc, featuring test drives, spectacular stunts and reports on the latest models. Joining the new presenters are commentator Eddie Jordan, world record-breaking German racing driver Sabine Schnitz, renowned motoring journalist Chris Harris, car reviewer and TV presenter Rory Reid, and of course, the Stig. Things get under way as Chris takes the Dodge Viper ACR to the home of Top Gun in Nevada to battle it out against Sabine, who is behind the wheel of a Chevrolet Corvette Z06. Matt LeBlanc tackles the wilds of Morocco in the Ariel Nomad, before returning to British soil to take on Evans in a gruelling UK v USA challenge.

## BBC1

**6.00** Breakfast. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Wanted Down Under. (R) **12.00** BBC News. **1.15** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **2.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.00** Lose Weight for Life. (R) **4.00** Nature's Epic Journeys. (R) **5.00** Points of View. **5.15** Songs of Praise. **5.50** Pointless Celebrities. (R) **6.35** News.

**6.50** Regional Programme.

**7.00** **Countryfile**. John Craven races a hill-runner to the summit of Snowdon, and meets volunteers trying to save the area's osprey. Anita Rani puts on her wetsuit for a spot of in-land surfing, and Joe Crowley, a metal artist whose work has dominated the Snowdonia landscape. Plus, Tom Heap meets campaigners from both sides of the EU Referendum debate, asking David Cameron and Boris Johnson why 'rural Britain' should vote with them. Including Weather For The Week Ahead.

**8.00** **Antiques Roadshow**. Fiona Bruce and the team return to Tredegar House near Newport. Among the finds are a locket that was a gift from Queen Victoria, a device used for creating tattoos, a classic car, a cigar cutter commemorating the opening of the Newport transporter bridge, 19th-century advertisements for public executions, a versatile tiara and a miniature font with a sad history. (R)

**9.00** **Wallander**. The detective investigates when a body is found half-buried in a swamp. Visiting her home, Wallander discovers signs of an intruder and that the dead woman's daughter is missing. The return of a lost love distracts him from the case at hand, as he encounters a gang of bikers that have been causing trouble in the area and begins to suspect he is being watched.

**10.30** BBC News.

**10.50** Regional Programme.

**11.00** Room 101 – Extra Storage. Extended edition, with Des O'Connor, Adrian Chiles and Jameela Jamil discussing their pet hates. Last in the series. (R)

**11.40** Film: **Grosse Pointe Blank**. (1997) Black comedy drama, starring John Cusack.

**1.20** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.25** BBC News.

## BBC2

**6.35** Great British Garden Revival. (R) **7.35** This Farming Life. (R) **8.35** Countryfile. (R) **9.30** The Beechgrove Garden. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.30** The Berry Bikers' Asian Adventure. (R) **12.30** The King's Proper Pub Food. (R) **12.30** Rowing World Cup. **2.30** Athletics: Diamond League. **3.30** Gymnastics: Men's European Championships.

**6.00** **Golf: PGA Highlights**. Hazel Irvine presents action from the final round of the BMW PGA Championship, the European Tour event taking place on the West Course at the Wentworth Club in Surrey.

**7.00** **Rugby Union**, England v Wales. Highlights of the friendly encounter at Twickenham, where the sides warmed up for their respective summer tours of Australia and New Zealand.

**8.00** **Top Gear**. New series. The motoring show returns with new hosts Chris Evans and Matt LeBlanc, with guest appearances by Jessie Eisenberg and Gordon Ramsay.

**9.00** **Battle of Jutland: The Navy's Bloodiest Day**. Dan Snow marks the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Jutland, which ended in an inconclusive result, but may have been crucial to the eventual outcome of the First World War.

**10.05** **QI XL**. Stephen Fry invites David Mitchell, Sue Perkins and Sami Shah to join regular panelist Alan Davies as he meanders about some places that start with the letter M. (R)

**10.35** **Stupid Man, Smart Phone**. Russell Kane and singer-songwriter Conor Maynard try to survive the dense, unforgiving Costa Rican jungle, using only their smartphones as survival aids.

**11.25** **Flat TV**. New series. Comedy following the exploits of two TV-obsessed slackers, beginning as the duo anxiously await the delivery of a parcel. Starring Tom Rosenthal and Naz Osmanoglu.

**11.45** **Later – with Jools Holland**. Extended edition, featuring performances by the Last Shadow Puppets, Bonnie Raitt, Ballake Sissoko and Vincent Segal, Nao, Dinosaur Jr and Zucchero. (R)

**12.50** **Sign Zone: Countryfile**. (R) **1.45** Holby City. (R) **2.45** This is BBC Two.

## ITV

**6.00** **CITV: The Aquabats! Super Show!** **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.05** Sooty. (R) **7.15** Super 4. (R) **7.30** Neighbours. (R) **7.45** The Wiggles. (R) **8.00** Teen Titans Go! (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** Griff's Great Britain. (R) **10.00** Peston on Sunday. **11.00** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **1.00** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **2.05** Britain's Got Talent: Live Final. (R) **4.35** Midsomer Murders. (R)

**6.30** **Regional Programme**; Weather. **1.40** ITV News: Weather.

**7.00** **Where Are They Now? The Reunions**. Stars of TV, films and the music industry reassemble the acts that helped them find fame, including the Bay City Rollers, Musical Youth, East 17 and cast of the Oxo advertisements.

**8.00** **The British Soap Awards 2016**. The stars of some of the nation's favourite shows gather at London's Hackney Empire Theatre to celebrate some of soap-land's most dynamic plotlines of the past year. The casts of Coronation Street, Doctors, EastEnders, Emmerdale and Hollyoaks all assemble to discover who will be going home with one of the 15 coveted awards, as voted for by members of the viewing public. Over the past 12 months, Britain's soaps have dealt with everything from the serial killer in the psychopath in EastEnders to bad-boy Calum's death in a live episode of Coronation Street, the unmasking of Hollyoaks' notorious Gloved Hand Killer, and yet another air crash in Emmerdale. Phillip Schofield presides as a parade of famous faces hand out the trophies, which include gongs for the Best Actor and Actress, Villain of the Year, Best Newcomer, Scene of the Year and Best On Screen Partnership.

**10.00** **ITV News: Weather**.

**10.20** **Perspectives: The Great American Love Song with Nicky Campbell**. The broadcaster reveals his passion for the music of 1920s and 1930s New York, choosing six timeless love songs from the era. (R)

**11.20** **Premiership Rugby Union**.

**12.15** **Jackpot247. 3.00** Motorsport UK. **3.50** British Superbike Championship Highlights. **4.40** **ITV Nightscreen**.

## CHANNEL 4

**7.05** **Monaco Historic Grand Prix 2016**. **8.00** **Frasier**. (R) **8.25** **Frasier**. (R) **9.30** **Sunday Brunch**, **12.30** **Film: Step Up 2: The Streets**. (2008) Drama, starring Brina Evans. **2.25** **George Clinton: Amazing Sexpansions**. (R) **3.25** **Location, Location, Location**. (R) **4.30** **A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun**. **5.30** **Channel 4 News**. **5.45** **Formula 1: Monaco Grand Prix** Highlights.

**8.00** **Yeti: Man, Myth or Beast?** Scientist Mark Evans enlists the aid of an international team of geneticists as he sets out to determine, once and for all, whether there is a rational explanation for the legendary Tibetan yeti. Mark's investigation centres on two competing theories, the first being that the "Abominable Snowman" is in fact a species of "human" marginalised by the rise of homo sapiens, the other stating that the yeti is some form of previously undiscovered bear. Researcher and mountaineer Ronald Messner, who claims to have encountered a yeti – weighs in on the subject, subscribing to the latter theory, while Professor Rasmus Nielsen shares his research into the Denisovans, a long-lost species of human with DNA connections to modern Tibetans, which may have inspired Himalayan folk tales of "wild men" who would later become known as "yetis".

**9.00** **Channel 4's Comedy Gala 2016**. So You Think You're Funny 2012, winner Aisling Bea, The Last Leg's Josh Widdicombe and Alex Brooker, former Harry Potter actor Warwick Davis and Channel 4's very own "Chatty Man" Alan Carr are among the comedy stars taking part in the seventh annual Comedy Gala at the Royal Albert Hall's C2N arena. Also taking to the stage this year are Charlie Baker, Kevin Bridges, Nathan Caton, Hal Cruttenden, Rob Beckett, Joel Dommett, Kerry Godliman, Lee Nelson, Russell Kane, Sean Lock, Shappi Khorsandi, Sean Walsh, Tom Allen and Zoe Lyons, along with musician Jake Bugg. As ever, all profits from ticket and DVD sales of Gala will go to Great Ormond Street Hospital Children's Charity.

**11.30** **8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown**. **12.00** **Jimmy Carr**. (R) **12.30** **Film: The Two Faces of January**. (2014) **2.05** **Come Dine with Me**. (R) **3.00** **Angels of Jarm**. (R)

## CHANNEL 5

**6.00** **Milkshake!** Peppa Pig. **6.05** **Bananas in Pyjamas**. (R) **6.20** **Angela Ballerina**. (R) **6.35** **Bob the Builder**. (R) **6.45** **Ticky Toc**. (R) **6.55** **Zack and Quack**. (R) **7.10** **Pets**. **7.15** **Noddy in Toy Town**. (R) **7.25** **Paw Patrol**. (R) **8.40** **Little Princess**. (R) **8.45** **Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel**. (R) **8.50** **Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom**. (R) **8.55** **Wanda and the Alien**. (R) **9.00** **Toby's Travelling Circus**. (R) **9.10** **Jolly Jamm**. (R) **9.30** **LazyTown**. (R) **10.30** **Funniest Falls, Falls & Flops**. (R) **10.55** **Now That's Funny!** (R) **11.55** **Holy Man**. (1998) **2.05** **Film: Bride Wars**. (2009) **3.00** **Film: The Princess Diaries**. (2001)

**6.00** **Kitten's Got Talent**. Internet clips of kittens performing physical feats or demonstrating lightning reactions, sporting and athletic skills, super intelligence or bravery. (R)

**6.55** **5 News Weekend**.

**7.00** **Cricket on 5**, England v Sri Lanka. Highlights from the third day of the second Test in a three-match series, which takes place at Emirates Durham International Cricket Ground.

**8.00** **Egypt: Secrets of the Sphinx**. Experts in various fields share their theories on the Great Sphinx of Giza, while CGI is used to recreate what the giant statue would have looked like when it was originally built.

**9.00** **Film: Hercules**. (2014) **Premiere**. The son of a Greek god is sold into slavery by his evil stepfather, but escapes to reclaim his rightful kingdom. Mythological adventure, with Kellan Lutz and Galia Weiss. Includes 5 News at 10pm.

**11.00** **League One Final: Football League Tonight**. Walsall or Barnsley v Millwall or Bradford City. George Riley and Kelly Cates present action from the League One play-off final at Wembley Stadium.

**11.45** **Film: Crank: High Voltage**. (2009) **Premiere**. A hitman pursues a mobster who took his heart and replaced it with a machine that requires constant charging up. Action thriller sequel, starring Jason Statham and Amy Smart.

**1.25** **SuperCasino**. (3.10) **The KKK: Behind the Mask**. (R) **4.00** **Criminals: Caught on Camera**. (R) **5.45** **Nick's Quest**. (R) **5.45** **Angels of Jarm**. (R)

## DIGITAL

**BBC Four**

**7.00** **Playing Beethoven's Fifth**. **7.45** **Mozart Uncovered**. **8.00** **Balloons and Ballerinas: Dance at the BBC**. **9.00** **Coldplay Live at Radio 1's Big Weekend**. **10.00** **Biggest Barn Break Ups and Makeovers**. **11.00** **Damien Hirst and Jeff Koons Side by Side: The Interview**. **11.30** **The Last Castle: The Making of Castle King**. **12.30** **World War Two: 1945 & the Wheelchair President**. **2.00** **Going Going Gone: Nicki Broomfield's Disappearing Britain**. **3.00** **Balloons and Ballerinas: Dance at the BBC**. **4.00** **Close**.

**ITV2**

**1.35** **The Hot Desk: Caroline Flack**. **1.45** **Film: Beethoven's Fifth**. **2.55** **Film: Beethoven's Fifth**. **3.35** **Film: The SpongeBob SquarePants Movie**. (2004) **4.35** **FYI Daily**. **4.40** **Film: The SpongeBob SquarePants Movie** (2004) **5.20** **Film: Despicable Me** (2010) **6.20** **FYI Daily**. **6.25** **Film: Despicable Me** (2010) **7.10** **FYI Film: Miss Congeniality 2: Armed and Fabulous**. (2005) **8.10** **FYI Daily**. **8.15** **Film: Miss Congeniality 2: Armed and Fabulous**. (2005) **9.30** **Love Island: We Know What You Did Last Summer**. **10.00** **Film: The Mask Guy**. **12.00** **American Dad!** **12.55** **The Cleveland Show**. **1.50** **Safeword**. **2.30** **Teleshopping**

**E4**

**2.00** **The Goldbergs**. **3.30** **Film: Rio** (2011) **5.30** **The Big Bang Theory**. **9.00** **Marvel's Agents of SHIELD**. **10.00** **Tattoo Fixers**. **11.00** **The Inbetweeners**. **12.10** **Gogglebox**. **2.15** **Marvel's Agents of SHIELD**. **3.00** **New Girl**. **3.30** **Holyoaks**.

**Film4**

**10.05** **Film: Police Academy** (1984) **10.55** **Film: The Chronicles of Riddick** (2004) **11.00** **Film: The Chronicles of Riddick** (2004) **11.15** **Minder**. **12.00** **Tommy Cooper**. **2.50** **ITV4** **Nightscreen**.

**1.40** **On the Buses**. **5.05** **Judge Judy**

**ITV4**

**12.20** **Foyles War**. **2.20** **Film: Columbo: Swan Song**. (1974) **4.30** **Film: Doc Hollywood**. (1991) **5.40** **FYI Daily**. **6.30** **Film: Doc Hollywood**. (1991) **6.30** **Rosemary & Thyme**. **8.00** **Lewis**. **10.05** **Film: Good Will Hunting**. (1997) **11.10** **FYI Daily**. **12.15** **Film: Good Will Hunting**. (1997) **12.45** **Secret Smile**. **2.05** **Blue Murder**. **2.55** **May the Best House Win**. **4.40** **On the Buses**. **5.05** **Judge Judy**

**10.05** **Film: Police Academy** (1984) **10.55** **Film: The Chronicles of Riddick** (2004) **11.00** **Film: The Chronicles of Riddick** (2004) **11.15** **Minder**. **12.00** **Tommy Cooper**. **2.50** **ITV4** **Nightscreen**.

**E4**

**2.00** **The Goldbergs**. **3.30** **Film: Rio** (2011) **5.30** **The Big Bang Theory**. **9.00** **Marvel's Agents of SHIELD**. **10.00** **Tattoo Fixers**. **11.00** **The Inbetweeners**. **12.10** **Gogglebox**. **2.15** **Marvel's Agents of SHIELD**. **3.00** **New Girl**. **3.30** **Holyoaks**.

**Film4**

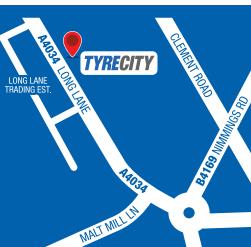
**11.00** **The Lost World** (1960) **1.00** **Parental Guidance** (2012) **3.05** **Catch**: Caught on Camera. (R) **4.00** **Nick's Quest**. (R) **5.45** **Angels of Jarm**. (R)

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## MONDAY

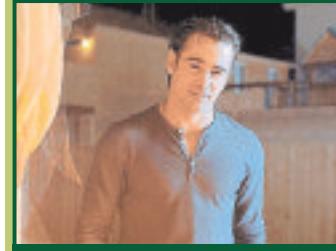
## The Class of 92, ITV, 10.15pm

Documentary telling the story of six of Manchester United's most successful players - David Beckham, Nicky Butt, Ryan Giggs, Paul Scholes and Phil and Gary Neville. The film follows their rise from playing for the club's youth team to forming part of a squad that would win the European Cup. (2013)

## TUESDAY

## Columbo: Any Old Port in a Storm, ITV, 11.10pm

A vineyard owner's financial security is jeopardised when his playboy younger brother threatens to sell the family winery. He resorts to killing his sibling and rigging the death scene to look like a scuba-diving accident. However, the crumpled cop sees through the ruse and in the process reveals he is something of a wine buff himself. Detective drama, with Peter Falk, Donald Pleasence and Julie Harris. (1973)



Fright Night, Friday, BBC1, 11.55pm

## WEDNESDAY

## Stranger in the House, Channel 5, 3.15pm

Premiere. A young woman suspects her scheming step-mother of murdering her father to get her hands on her inheritance. Thriller, starring Emmanuelle Vaugier and Jordana Largy. (2016)

## THURSDAY

## Le Week-End, Channel 4, 9pm

A couple decide to celebrate their 30th anniversary in Paris, where they spent their honeymoon, in the hope that returning to the site of happier times will revive the failing relationship. The holiday leads to an encounter with a prosperous old friend, who invites them to a dinner party that changes their outlook on life. Romantic comedy drama, starring Jim Broadbent, Lindsay Duncan and Jeff Goldblum. (2013)

## FRIDAY

## Fright Night, BBC1, 11.55pm

A teenager realises his new neighbour is a vampire, but cannot convince anyone of the danger they are in. He turns to a foul-mouthed magician with a horror-themed Las Vegas show to help him slay the bloodsucker before he murders the entire neighbourhood. Comedy horror remake, with Anton Yelchin and Colin Farrell. (2011)

# Looking at the benefits of the Welfare system

**A**re single mothers receiving benefits living the life of Riley? Or is it more a case of living on the breadline?

Single mum-of-two Myleene Klass is turning investigator for this new documentary in which she hopes to find out what parents on benefits are spending their cash on.

Myleene is never far from the public eye as a TV presenter and performer, but she is being one of Britain's two million single parents as her most important job.

However, she struggles with a stigma she feels is attached to the single-mother status and looks to uncover why single mums feel like they get such a hard time.

"When I read the headlines about single mums on benefits, it living the high life, refusing to work, it makes me, like everyone else, furious."

"These stories do nothing to help the image of single parents everywhere, leaving [us] all feeling tarred with the same brush."

"So I want to find out the truth behind the headlines."

Myleene starts her journey by speaking to 'Welfare Queen' Marie Buchan, an unemployed single mother of eight children who caused outrage when she publicly declared her £26,000 benefits weren't enough.

Myleene says getting the benefits is a simple process: "You obviously have a baby, you send off the application form, birth certificate, they assess it and then you've got your money in your account. It's very easy."

Next it's onto Margate, where Myleene meets teen mum Becky.

She says: "I got quite a lot of negative comments from everyone. They just called me dirty, disgusting."

"There was one incident where someone actually followed me home and were shouting and swearing at me, so I was running with the buggy because I don't really want to get beaten up."

Myleene also heads to North Wales to stay with 43-year-old single mother Rhiannon, who relies on state benefits after being made redundant and losing the family home shortly after her marriage broke down.

She now looks after her trio of children and her grandmother in a rented house.

"It's a bridge for now," she says. "You almost feel like it's a failure. You get a little bit embarrassed about it."

Myleene takes Rhiannon to meet a group of single mothers called Single With Kids in the Delamere Forest.

Rhiannon describes her experiences with the group as, 'Like an epiphany.' She says: "I've gone through that walk and come back and it's like, 'Yeah we're single mums, and look what we do!'"

There are 200,000 single dads raising their kids in Britain, and many of them also rely on benefits.

So with that in mind, Myleene visits Dad's House, a charity where fathers get the chance to talk to other single dads.

One father, Luke, tells her: "I hated myself for having to go to the job centre. People ask you, 'How do you get your money?' When I say income support, 'Oh, dole dossier scum.' I don't want to claim but I have no choice."



Myleene Klass: Single Mum on Benefits, Tuesday, ITV, 9pm

## BEST OF THE REST

## MONDAY

## A Midsummer Night's Dream

## BBC1, 8.30pm

The Hollow Crown: The War of the Roses gave us a history lesson (of sorts), but now the BBC is turning its attention to Shakespeare's most magical comedy, A Midsummer Night's Dream. It's been adapted by former Doctor Who showrunner Russell T Davies, but while he's put his own stamp on it – and

gathered an all-star cast including Matt Lucas, Maxine Peake and Bernard Cribbins – he assures us that he's sticking to the Bard's words. For those unfamiliar with the story, it opens in Athens, where dictator Theseus is planning to wed Hippolyta, a prisoner of war, and young Hermia is determined to escape a marriage to man she doesn't love. Meanwhile, in the woods, trouble is brewing between the King and Queen of the fairies, while in the town, the leading man of a squabbling amateur theatre group is about to undergo a magical transformation.

## TUESDAY

## World War One Remembered: The Battle of Jutland

## BBC2, 7pm

David Dimbleby looks back on the day's events held to commemorate the Battle of Jutland, one of the greatest sea battles in naval history. For one day in

May 1916 the outcome of the First World War hung in the balance as 250 of Britain and Germany's most powerful warships fought head to head in the North Sea. Today, 100 years on, The Duke of Edinburgh, together with the German President, lead the tributes to those who fought and remember the one in 10 sailors who lost their lives.

## WEDNESDAY

## Lose Weight for Love

## BBC1, 8pm

Tanya Byron helps Bob and Jane, whose overeating and excessive drinking is making them so unhappy that it is threatening to drive them apart. Over the past few years, the couple have piled on the pounds through eating vast meals and drinking up to 25 bottles of wine a week, and Bob admits that he no longer finds his partner attractive. Tanya and her team separate the pair for 10 weeks, arranging for Jane to resolve a long-standing issue with her adult daughter, and introducing former semi-professional footballer Bob to the fun of exercise.

## Versailles

## BBC2, 9.30pm

It's not even aired in Britain yet, but this lavish period drama – which has previously been shown in France – is already whipping up controversy due to its sex scenes, with one MP questioning whether it's the sort of thing the BBC ought to be showing. Now, UK viewers have the chance to see what all the fuss is about. Mixing historical and fictional characters, the drama begins in the France of 1667, where the young King Louis XIV (George Blagden) is determined to stamp his authority on court and country, but is all too aware of the legacy of The Fronde; a series of civil wars which saw the nobility rebel against the crown. His plan to bring the rich to heel involves turning his father's hunting lodge into Europe's most magnificent chateau.



A Midsummer Night's Dream, Monday, BBC1, 8.30pm

## THURSDAY

## Live International Football

## ITV, 7.30pm

Portugal (Kick-off 7.45pm). Mark Pougatch presents all the action from both teams' final friendly before Euro 2016, which comes from Wembley Stadium. Roy Hodgson will be keen to cast his eye over his side in a match environment one more time before selecting his team to face Russia a week on Saturday, and they are likely to face a difficult encounter against the Portuguese. Fernando Santos' men have been handed what looks like one of the easier groups in France, and will be hopeful that they can go far, especially if talisman Cristiano Ronaldo is at his brilliant best. With analysis from Ian Wright and Lee Dixon.

## FRIDAY

## Fraud – How They Steal Your ID

## ITV, 9pm

Criminals are increasingly procuring bank and credit card details from online customers, which are then freely traded on the so-called 'dark web'. However, as this programme reveals, to succeed in doing this they must first get personal with their targets using a combination of data hacks, spam e-mail and malware – often coupled by posing as inquisitive bank staff via telephone calls. With reference to true-life occurrences, this programme outlines the various techniques used to swindle account holders of their cash. Narrated by Shaun Dooley.

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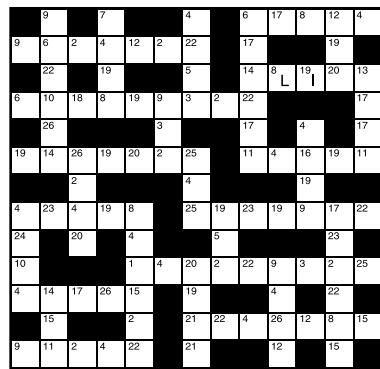
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## BRAIN GYM No.379

## Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

F	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
I	W	P	Z	L	R	E	B	J	C	G	Y	D
X	1	5	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
H	O	Q	T	A	S	N	K	V	M	U		
O	2	4	22	21	12	15						

## Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

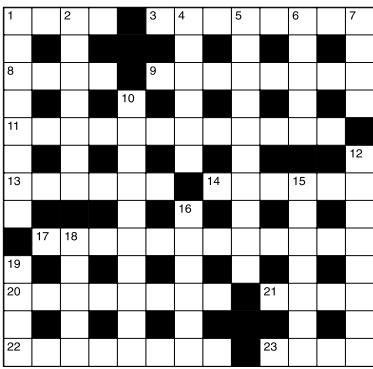
## Cryptic Clues:

## Across

- Point to a tree from the window (4)
- The parson's address (8)
- Sound as a bell (4)
- Encouraging applause? (8)
- Bet the flag will, sometimes (4,1,7)
- Excavates lodgings (4)
- Strange desire to settle somewhere (6)
- This fight will be very close (4-2-4)
- I am in a rage, it appears (6)
- Educated postman? (3,2,7)
- Hip seams split by stress (8)
- Still not excited (4)
- Given some support for regular girlfriends (8)
- Stupefy in a most unusual fashion (4)

## Down

- His paper might be valuable (8)
- Has no bite? (7)
- Expire, though once healthy (6)
- Choose to speak to the voters (10)
- The very best from France (5)
- Excavates lodgings (4)
- This fight will be very close (4-2-4)
- Yet he may be a queen! (8)
- A nice tax might produce it, but it wouldn't be right (7)
- Fish for position, we hear (6)
- It brought to notice the gravity of the world situation (5)
- They may be sweet to eat, or not! (4)



## Quick Clues:

## Across

- Applaud (4)
- Trustworthy (8)
- Observe (4)
- Mark in degrees (8)
- White-hot (12)
- Reputation (6)
- Lethargy (6)
- Loving (12)
- Expulsion (8)
- Lake (4)
- Guardianship (8)
- Active (4)

## Down

- Persuade (8)
- Commodity (7)
- Merited (6)
- Token (10)
- Muscular strength (5)
- Level (4)
- Accompanying (10)
- Verdure (8)
- Tableland (7)
- Powerful (6)
- Mock-assault (5)
- Exploit (4)

## Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

## LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS &gt;

7	2	3	9	8	1	5	6	4
6	5	8	4	7	2	9	3	1
9	1	4	6	5	3	8	7	2
1	4	7	8	2	5	3	9	6
3	8	9	5	1	6	4	2	7
8	6	9	1	7	4	2	5	3
4	7	1	3	8	2	5	9	6
3	8	2	5	4	9	6	1	7
5	9	6	2	1	7	4	8	3

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:  
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Greasepaint; 5 Tirades; 10 Still; 11 Nylon; 12 Russian; 13 Answer; 15 Brogue; 18 Elector; 20 Least; 22 Sepia; 23 Aspirin; 24 Bespattered. Down: 2 Rural; 3 Andante; 4 Ensure; 5 Asses; 6 Nailing; 7 Stand at ease; 8 Clandestine; 14 Steele; 16 Response; 17 Truant; 19 25; 24 April; 26 Answer; 14 Application; 9 Abandon; 10 Nicer; 11 Ennui; 12 Elegant; 13 Errage; 15 Scheme; 18 Sultanah; 20 Lilac; 22 Rapid; 23 Asiatic; 24 Secret agent. Down: 2 Plain; 3 Lodging; 4 Cancel; 5 Tense; 6 Overwave; 7 Tape measure; 8 Weathercock; 14 Relapse; 16 Calling; 17 Vacant; 19 Adder; 21 Latin.

## Thinking space



## Quiz

- Of which country is Lusaka the capital?
- Who wrote the opera Sir John In Love in 1929?
- What is the highest mountain in the Cairngorms?
- What type of creature is the mudskipper?
- By what name was Robert MacGregor better known?

- Which sport's principal forms are strokeplay and matchplay?
- Who is the patron saint of Scotland?
- Which disease is also called Hansen's disease?
- What is a saluki?
- Which country's all-woman team won the three-day event at the 1994 World Equestrian Games?

## Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Lady Helen Taylor; 2 Iraq; 3 Burmese; 4 Yin and Yang; 5 Rio Grande; 6 Stendhal; 7 Mo Mowlam; 8 E Nesbit; 9 Anglican; 10 Stentor.

## Niner

## Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

14628 gives a modern vessel,  
371129 gives an old vessel,  
173556 gives a stretch of water.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

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25 JUN, 6 AUG • MUHAMMAD ALI EXHIBITION  
9 JUL • EXHIBITIONISM - ROLLING STONES  
16 JUL, 27 AUG • EDINBURGH TATTOO (MANY DATES)  
AUG • SOUTHPORT FLOWER SHOW  
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SAT 16 JUL, 6 AUG, 3 SEP, 15 OCT

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MON 6, 27 JUN, 11 JUL, 4, 8, 29 AUG, 12, 19 SEP, 3 OCT

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MON 13, 27 JUN, 11 JUL, 15, 18, 21, 25 AUG, 19, 26 SEP

## BUCKINGHAM PALACE &amp; HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT



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OVERNIGHT HALF BOARD

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SAT 6, 20 AUG, 3, 24 SEP

## KYLE OF LOCHALSH BY TRAIN ISLE OF SKYE &amp; STRATHSPEY STEAM



5 DAYS FROM £259.95  
4 NIGHTS HALF BOARD Mackays/Garve Hotel  
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MON 20 JUN, 18 JUL, 8, 22 AUG, 3 OCT, 8 OCT

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4 DAYS FRI 5, 12, 19, 26 AUG, 5 DAYS MON 1, 15 AUG, 24 OCT

## WARNER STUDIO TOUR Making of Harry Potter



2 DAYS £119.95  
OVERNIGHT HALF BOARD  
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SAT 11, 25 JUN, 20 AUG, 23, 26 SEP, 8 OCT

## TINTAGEL PADSTOW &amp; PORT ISAAC



5 DAYS FROM £219.95

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• Includes trips to Rick Stein's Padstow &amp; Doc Martin's Port Isaac

MON 5, 19, 26 SEP, 3, 10, 24 OCT, 21 NOV

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4 NIGHTS HALF BOARD Bursht Hotel  
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MON 6, 13, 20, 27 JUN, 11, 18, 25 JUL, 8 AUG

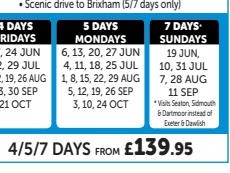
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7 DAYS SUNDAYS 19 JUN, 10, 31 JUL, 7, 28 AUG, 11 SEP

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&lt;



Garlic mushrooms on ciabatta bread



Tomato and basil linguine with veg



A good tradition – The Horns Inn, Rugeley



Rustic charm – the olde worlde interior

# Trying new pubs can be risky but at Horns you'll be Inn for a real treat

**EXPLORING** new pubs is always risky but our minds were instantly put at ease on entering The Horns Inn.

But before going inside, we had a quick peek outside. If you're going for a day out at Cannock Chase or simply venturing a little further afield for some good nosh, this is the pub to wind up at.

Based on the edge of Rugeley, in Slitting Mill and a five-minute walk from The Chase, the pub sits next to a fishing pond and has a handy bus stop for those who don't drive and ample parking for those who do. And so we entered. Refurbished back in 2014, everything still looks fresh and clean – no sticky floors or 'old pub' smell in this place.

The interior has a trendy, yet traditional feel. The mismatched chairs, wooden tables,

By Louise Rouvray

exposed brick walls, stone fireplace and firewood make for a rustic and relaxed feel. It may sound olde-worlde, but the stone-coloured walls, new wooden flooring and modern lighting gives the place a refreshing 21st century air.

Within five minutes of us being seated and we had already had a good look at the menu. I went for the pan fried button mushrooms in a garlic and herb sauce served with ciabatta to start, while my fiancé opted for the fresh homemade soup of the day – butternut squash.

For the mains, which arrived promptly. I'd gone for freshly prepared linguine with tomato and basil sauce, while my fiancé had chosen the 21-day aged 10oz sirloin steak, cooked medium rare (as requested) and served with grilled tomato, mushroom,

peas and homemade chips. The chips here are to die for – literally like going to a soft, potato heaven with well-seasoned skinned perfectly gates.

Being a vegetarian, unfortunately I couldn't taste test his mains, but he assured me the steak was tender and not too greasy.

## Positive

He sliced through it easily enough, with about the right amount of chewiness/toughness and made contented grunting noises throughout – all in all, a very positive response.

My linguine was perfectly cooked – the pasta breaking easily in my mouth, but retaining a firm texture. The tomato sauce took me back to our recent trip to Italy, sipping wine in the sun and consuming enough pasta to fill a crater. Sliced courgettes, onions and peppers really brought

out the simple, yet very scrumptious basil and tomato sauce. We had been aiming for a pudding, but I was filled to the brim.

Two starters, two mains and three drinks came in at £50.90, which some may consider a tad pricey, but put the quality (and quantity) of food on a set of scales with money on the other side and I'd say you have a fairly balanced load. Plus I must add my other half went for one of the most expensive things on the menu (as ever) – the 10oz sirloin steak, which was £18.95 – whereas most mains range from £9.95 to £12.95.

The pub also caters for all alcoholic tastes. Alongside a selection of ales, cider and wine, it's a gin lover's paradise with more than 48 artisan options and there's even a whiskey snug to settle into for a more cosy night out. I can safely say we will be back for a tipple or two, plus I need to try out their bean burger.

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# PROPERTY

YOUR WEEKLY  
GUIDE TO HOME  
BUYING AND  
LETTING

## Five-bedroomed individual style split-level self-build

Built in the 1970s, 6b Prospect Road, Lower Gornal, is a five-bedroomed individual style self-build, which is generally described as a split-level bungalow or a house.

It is for sale through Swinscoes at £249,950.

A spokesman for the selling agent said: "Although unique in design, it suits the area and particularly the street 'Prospect Road' very well, which hosts a selection of characterful individual style houses which are only a couple of minutes' walk into Gornal Village – ideal for someone who is looking for a convenient location, as well as something a little out of the ordinary."

The split-level accommodation has the living space including lounge, kitchen, shower room and a reception room on the first floor and has four further bedrooms downstairs.

There are well laid out and low maintenance gardens to the rear and stretching to the side of the property. It also has a balcony overlooking the garden from the lounge taking full advantage of the fantastic views.

The spokesman added: "Although some improvements have been made, the property has much more potential to further improve the house cosmetically, or even extend to the side – subject to relevant planning permissions – if so required by a purchaser."

"Essentially, the property offers the space and the scope for somebody to create their ideal home and viewing is highly recommended."

Swinscoes are a local, independent, family-run estate agent that specialises in the sale of residential properties in Sedgley, Coseley, Wolverhampton, Dudley and the surrounding areas.

Having had over 30 years experience selling property in the area coupled with its wealth of local knowledge, Swinscoes can provide an unparalleled, professional service with that personal touch.

At Swinscoes estate agents, offering the highest level of customer service is one of their main objectives and biggest strengths.

The spokesman added: "We maintain communication throughout the whole process of selling your home from start to finish. Our team in Sedgley have years of experience and an excellent track record of achieving sales."

The company director is Christine Swinscoe. Born and bred in Dudley, her career spans more than 40 years.

Christine has many years' experience in the industry, initially starting a letting agents company, then moving onto Payne Estates and then finally taking over the company, creating Swinscoes Estate Agents in 2005.

## KEY FEATURES

### KEY FEATURES

Built in the 1970s

Five bedrooms

Unique self build

Few minutes walk to the village

Convenient location

Fantastic views

LOWER GORNAL £249,950



TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY

AGENT: Swinscoes

TEL: 01902 672274

EMAIL: admin@swinscoes.co.uk



#### Halesowen



#### Middlefield Avenue

- \* Link detached house
- \* Lounge\* Dining room
- \* Conservatory\* Breakfast room
- \* Three bedrooms\* Bathroom
- \* Garage
- EPC=D

Offers in the region of £239,950

#### Halesowen



#### Vicarage Road

- \* Terraced house
- \* Kitchen and lobby
- \* Ground floor bathroom
- \* Three bedrooms
- \* Rear Garden
- EPC=tbc

Offers in the region of £110,000

#### Oldbury



#### Oakdale Road

- \* Semi-detached house
- \* Kitchen/breakfast room
- \* Downstairs wc and shower/wet room
- \* Three bedrooms
- \* Bathroom
- EPC=D

Offers in the region of £125,000

#### Halesowen



#### Hagley Road West

- \* Spacious family home
- \* Four bedrooms
- \* Through living room
- \* Breakfast room and kitchen
- \* Large garage
- \* Good sized rear garden
- EPC=tbc

Offers in the region of £349,950

#### Halesowen



#### Kent Road

- \* Ground floor flat
- \* Kitchen/breakfast room
- \* Living room
- \* Two bedrooms
- \* Shower room
- \* Private garden
- EPC=C

Offers in the region of £119,950

#### Halesowen



#### Lyttleton Avenue

- \* Detached House in need of modernisation
- \* Two reception rooms
- \* Downstairs wc
- \* Three bedrooms
- \* Delapidated garage
- EPC=E

Offers in the region of £175,000

#### Halesowen



#### Brett Young Close

- \* Second floor flat
- \* Open plan living space with kitchen area
- \* Two bedrooms
- \* Bathroom
- \* Allocated parking
- EPC=B

Offers in the region of £109,950

#### Halesowen



#### Beaumont Road

- \* Two bedroom terrace house
- \* Two reception rooms
- \* Ground floor bathroom & first floor shower room
- \* Rear garden
- EPC=D

Offers in the region of £124,950

#### Halesowen



#### Blackberry Lane

- \* A detached family house with four bedrooms (Principal bedroom with en-suite)\* Open aspect at rear\* Lounge, dining room and study\* Fitted kitchen with host of appliances, utility room
- \* Double garage, Gardens
- EPC=C

Offers in the region of £385,000

#### Halesowen



#### Park Road

- \* Link detached bungalow\* Two bedrooms and bathroom\* Lounge, kitchen and side garage\* Enclosed elevated rear garden. \* Situated on main bus route to Halesowen and Stourbridge Town Centres
- EPC=D

Offers in the region of £125,000

#### Halesowen



#### Lodge Close

- \* A spacious four bedroom detached house. \* Desirable location and enclosed gardens. \* Two en-suites, house bathroom. \* Lounge, dining room and study. \* Fitted kitchen leading to conservatory. \* Double garage
- EPC=C

Offers in the region of £550,000

#### Oldbury



#### Oak Road

- \* Dining room \* Living room
- \* Former garage/family room
- \* Kitchen and utility
- \* Bedroom two with en-suite
- \* Four further bedrooms
- \* Family bathroom
- EPC=tbc

Offers in the region of £325,000

#### Quinton



- \* Terraced House
- \* Three bedrooms
- \* Two reception rooms
- \* Well appointed bathroom
- \* Rear garden
- \* No chain
- EPC=E

Offers in the region of £169,950

#### Halesowen



#### Newbury Close

- \* A Tastefully Presented Detached House
- \* Fitted Kitchen/Breakfast room
- \* Dining Room \* Lounge Leading to Conservatory \* Principal bedroom with en-suite \* Three further bedrooms
- \* Private Gardens \* Garage
- EPC=C

Offers in the region of £269,950

#### Brierley Hill



#### Victoria Road

- \* End Terraced House \* Three storey
- \* Lounge \* Fitted cloakroom
- \* Three bedrooms \* En-suite \* Garage
- \* Enclosed gardens
- \* Gas boiler heating radiators
- \* Double glazed windows
- EPC=C

Offers in the region of £130,000

#### Halesowen



#### Lutley Avenue

- \* Living room and sitting room
- \* Conservatory
- \* Kitchen and utility
- \* Three bedrooms\* Bathroom
- \* Gas boiler heating radiators
- \* Double glazed windows
- EPC=tbc

Offers in the region of £249,950

#### Halesowen



#### Hambleton Road

- \* Semi-detached with Garage
- \* Kitchen/Dining room & Living room
- \* Conservatory \* Three bedrooms
- \* Well appointed bathroom with shower cubicle
- \* Popular residential location
- EPC=D

Offers in the region of £209,950

#### Halesowen



#### Lusbridge Close

- \* Detached house situated in cul-de-sac
- \* Kitchen/breakfast room
- \* Utility
- \* Two reception rooms and conservatory
- \* Four bedrooms (one with en-suite)
- \* Garage
- EPC=D

Offers in the region of £270,000

#### Halesowen



- \* Oaklands Court
- \* Spies Lane
- \* Second floor flat
- \* Living room \* Two bedrooms
- \* Communal parking
- \* Communal gardens
- EPC=C

Offers in excess of £110,000

#### Romsley



#### Dark Lane

- \* Impressive Detached Bungalow
- \* Principal Bedroom with Ensuite \* Two Further Bedrooms & Shower Room
- \* Lounge, Dining Room \* Fitted Kitchen, Utility Sun Lounge \* Double Garage, Landscaped Gardens
- EPC=E

Offers in the region of £550,000

#### Halesowen



#### Hagley Road

- \* Self contained flat
- \* Main accommodation on first floor
- \* Two bedrooms
- \* Allocated parking space
- \* Close to bus stop and shops
- EPC=C

Offers in the region of £114,950

#### Birmingham B32



#### Parkside

- \* Semi-detached house
- \* Three bedrooms
- \* Kitchen/breakfast room
- \* Shower room
- \* Rear garden
- \* Garage
- EPC=C

Offers in the region of £129,950

#### Oldbury



#### Wolverhampton Road

- \* Detached House
- \* Living room and dining room
- \* Kitchen and breakfast room
- \* Conservatory \* Five bedrooms
- \* Garage
- \* Extensive rear garden
- EPC=D

Offers in the region of £359,950

#### Halesowen



#### Gower Road

- \* Brand New Detached Family House
- \* Master Bedroom with Ensuite, 3 Further Bedrooms
- \* Open Plan Kitchen, Dining Area, Breakfast Area \* Living Room, Study, Utility
- \* Large Gated Gardens, Side Garage
- EPC=B

£450,000

#### Birmingham B17



- \* Peter Bennett Close
- \* Court Oak Road
- \* First floor apartment for occupation of the elderly \* Living room with balcony
- \* Two bedrooms \* Bathroom
- \* Communal gardens
- \* Communal off road parking
- EPC=C

Offers in the region of £70,000

#### Stourbridge



#### Plot 1 Yardley Street

- \* Brand New Detached House
- \* Principal Bedroom with Ensuite, Two Further Bedrooms \* Quality Fitted Kitchen with Host of Appliances/Dining Room \* Lounge Opening to Good-Sized Gardens
- EPC=B

£207,500

#### Dudley



#### Swan Street

- \* Large end terrace house
- \* Downstairs wc
- \* Re-fitted kitchen/breakfast room
- \* Lounge and dining room
- \* Three bedrooms \* Bathroom
- \* Additional plot of land
- EPC=D

Offers in the region of £135,000

#### Oldbury



#### Alexandra Court

- \* Ground floor purpose built flat
- \* Two bedrooms, bathroom
- \* Lounge \* Fitted Kitchen with oven hob and extractor
- \* Lounge & dining room area
- \* Communal gardens
- \* Off road parking
- EPC=D

Offers in the region of £75,000

#### Halesowen



#### Spiral Close

- \* First floor flat
- \* Double bedroom
- \* Ideal first time buy
- \* Lounge & dining area
- \* Communal gardens
- \* Off road parking
- EPC=D

Offers in the region of £68,500

#### Rowley Regis

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**NETHERTON**  
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and comfortable lounge, master bedroom with en suite, second bedroom, modern fitted kitchen with light coloured units and complementary working surfaces, splash-back tiling and wood-effect flooring.

There is also a bathroom with a modern white suite.

The property is decorated in neutral shades and has allocated off-road parking. The agents stress that this apartment really needs to be viewed to be appreciated.

For further information contact The Property Shop on 01384 456022 or visit [www.thepropertyshop.co.uk](http://www.thepropertyshop.co.uk)

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Situated in a quiet cul-de-sac just off The Straits, this beautifully presented three-bedroomed semi-detached home is in the sought after address of The Alley, Lower Gornal.

It is close to the village and popular schools. It is for sale through Swinscoes at £157,000.

The property has had a full make-over, modernising the internal accommodation. It comprises an entrance into a side lobby, hallway, breakfast kitchen, lounge, three good size bedrooms and bathroom.

There is a single size integral garage, new drive and a rear garden. This property is ideal for first time buyers or those with a young family. Contact Swinscoes on 01902 672274 or visit [www.swinscoes.co.uk](http://www.swinscoes.co.uk)



# Hicks Hadley

[hickshadley.com](http://hickshadley.com)  
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Halesowen Office Lettings & Property Management

**COVENTRY**, Underhill Close £1,300 pcm+ Fees

A great opportunity to rent this well presented modern 4 bedroom detached property in the sought after location of Finham/parish of Bapington area, current ofsted grade: Outstanding on January 21st 2015. This double glazed, gas central heated house has entrance hall, cloakroom, large lounge, fitted kitchen with integrated appliances, 4 good size bedrooms with 1 en-suite shower, 2 with fitted wardrobes, family bathroom, garage, driveway & low maintenance garden. EPC: D

**HALESOWEN**, Meadowbrook Road £775 pcm+ Fees

Large 3 bed mucklow style semi-detached property features: 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, 1 single bathroom with shower, garage (storage only), private rear garden, driveway parking for multiple vehicles, gas central heated and double glazed. Ideally located for Huntingtree and Letley Primary School. EPC: TBC

**WITHERMOOR**, Aldeford Drive £725 pcm+ Fees

Well presented semi detached house situated on this popular estate Occupying a quiet cul de sac location. Featuring an attractive lounge with breakfast kitchen to the rear. To the 1st floor there are 3 bedrooms and a family bathroom, whilst to the outside there are gardens to front and rear. In addition, there is a garage and drive, and the property benefits from gas fired central heating and double glazing. Not to be missed! EPC: D

**HALESOWEN**, Mayfield Road £695 pcm+ Fees

An unfurnished detached bungalow set in a quiet cul-de-sac in this very popular residential area close to schools and bus links. Features large lounge, fitted kitchen, 2 double & 1 large single bedroom, gas central heating, double glazing, front & rear gardens, garage. A property to be seen and appreciated. EPC: TBC

**BRIERLEY HILL**, Hem Road £650 pcm+ Fees

A detached bungalow in this quiet popular location having a large lounge/dining area, fitted kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, shower room, front & rear gardens, garage & large driveway to front, gas central heating, double glazing. The accommodation briefly comprises a reception hall, living, dining room, fitted kitchen, conservatory, 3 bedrooms, garage and paved driveway. EPC: D

**WOLVERHAMPTON**, Chelston Drive £650 pcm+ Fees

A 3 bedroom detached home located in a quiet cul de sac location and benefits gas central heating and double glazing. The accommodation briefly comprises a reception hall, living, dining room, fitted kitchen, conservatory, 3 bedrooms, garage and paved driveway. EPC: TBC

**CRADLEY HEATH**, Surfet Hill Road £645 pcm+ Fees

A fully refurbished semi-detached home, briefly comprising of: Large Lounge, modern fitted kitchen, shower bathroom, 3 bedrooms, double glazing, gas central heating, driveway & garage parking, rear garden. EPC: C

**STOURBRIDGE**, Queensway £625 pcm+ Fees

A really deceptive and extended 3 bedroom property close to local shops and schools. This fantastic home has recently been refurbished, including new kitchen, bathroom, kitchen, shower room, doors and carpets! You really do need to view to appreciate the amount of accommodation on offer, there is even a summer house in the garden! driveway, fore/rear gardens. EPC: TBC

**HAGLEY**, Newlands Close £595 pcm+ Fees

A superb modern ground floor apartment located near to Hagley Village & situated close to railway links, open plan lounge/diner with appliances, double glazing, with fitted wardrobes and en-suite shower room & 1 large single bedroom, white bathroom suite, allocated parking, secure entry system. Not to be missed!! EPC: C

**HALESOWEN**, Portsdown Road £595 pcm+ Fees

A well presented 3 bedroom semi detached house in sought after area. The property is offered unfurnished and comprises of: hall, guest wc, lounge, fitted dining kitchen, 3 bedrooms and bathroom with shower, low maintenance rear garden, driveway and gas central heating and double glazing. EPC: E

**HALESOWEN**, Bloomfield Street North £575 pcm+ Fees

Extremely well presented and surprisingly large end terrace with off road parking. Within walking distance to Halesowen, local bus routes and shops, comprises 2 bedrooms, nice lounge, attractive fitted diner/kitchen with white goods excluding washing machine, utility room, house bathroom with shower, driveway and gas central heating and double glazing. EPC: E

**HALESOWEN**, Clifton Road £575 pcm+ Fees

A property not to be missed! Set within a quiet cul-de-sac, a lovely mid terraced property which is ideal for shop units. Rowley Regis Train Station and the M5 J2, comprising of: 2 double bedrooms with fitted wardrobes, good size lounge, modern kitchen, house bathroom with shower, double glazing, gas central heating, driveway parking for 3 cars, small rear garden. EPC: D

**WOLLESCOTE**, Oakfield Road £575 pcm+ Fees

•• A LONG TERM RENTAL PROPERTY •• A really deceptive 3 bedroom property close to local shops and schools. This fantastic home has been fully refurbished in the last 12 months. Featuring a spacious lounge, brand new fitted kitchen and bathroom. You really do need to view to appreciate the amount of accommodation on offer. Driveway and garage, enclosed rear garden. EPC: D

**STOURBRIDGE**, King William Street £575 pcm+ Fees

Refurbished mid terraced house close to town centre comprising of: 2 reception rooms, large kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, gas central heating, double glazing, downstairs bathroom with shower and a shared rear garden. A lovely property, not to be missed!! EPC: TBC

**HALESOWEN**, Cavalier Drive £550 pcm+ Fees

This beautifully presented and well looked after 1st floor apartment is centrally located to Halesowen, within easy reach of the town centre and local bus station. Featuring 2 bedrooms, large lounge with access to your own balcony, fitted kitchen, bathroom with shower, electric heating, double glazing, and allocated parking for 1 car. Must see property. EPC: D

**ROWLEY REGIS**, Beeches Road £525 pcm+ Fees

An unfurnished mid terraced house, ideally located for local shops, buses and train station. Briefly comprising of: Front lounge, fitted dining kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, shower room, gas central heating, maintenance free rear garden. EPC: D

**KIDDERMINSTER**, Patin House £525 pcm+ Fees

A 1 bedroom ground floor apartment set in a converted Victorian house comprising of: porch, lounge, fitted kitchen with breakfast area, 1 double bedroom, shower room, double glazing, communal gardens and allocated parking. Available Now! EPC: TBC

**DUDLEY**, Southgate Way £499 pcm+ Fees

A stunning and spacious well presented furnished to suit 1st floor apartment featuring 2 bedrooms, electric storage heating, double glazing, open plan living room with fitted kitchen, house bathroom with shower, allocated parking space. Viewing highly recommended. EPC: C

**HALESOWEN/COLEY GATE**, Ladysmith Road £495 pcm+ Fees

A mid terraced house in a sought after area for Colley Lane Primary School, bus links to Halesowen and Stourbridge. This house features 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen with oven/hob, dining area, new downstairs shower room, 2 good size bedrooms, double glazing, gas central heating, rear garden. EPC: TBC

**DUDLEY**, Moncrieffe Close £450 pcm+ Fees

A top floor 1 bedroom flat available in the heart of Dudley comprising of lounge, fitted kitchen, 1 double bedroom and bathroom with shower, allocated parking space. EPC: D

**CRADLEY HEATH**, Elbow Street £440 pcm+ Fees

Set in the heart of Old Hill. A modern and spacious 2nd floor apartment, ideally situated for Old Hill train station and shopping in Cradley Heath. This apartment offers 1 double bedroom, fitted kitchen with washer/dryer, modern bathroom with shower, large lounge, 1 allocated parking space. An opportunity not to be missed!! EPC: B

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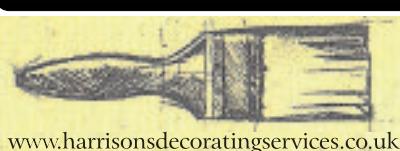
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# Classified Ads

Buy Local, Sell Local

## funeral directors

**N.E.DOWNING**  
(Blackheath) Ltd

Independent family run Funeral Directors  
24 hour service  
Halesowen 0121 422 2794  
[www.nedowning.co.uk](http://www.nedowning.co.uk)

## lost & found

**LOST**  
From Castlebridge Road since May 6, 20 month old female cat white with black and grey head, black and ginger markings on back, answers to Lucy.  
01902 64801.

**LOST**—African Grey Parrot, grey with red tail, lost Wednesday May 18, Dredge Street, Bilton, 07976 415550.

## 1 Family

### baby needs

**I CANDY PUSCHAIR** With grey/purple accessories inc umbrella and raincover £130. 07876 742599 or 01746 761101.

### elderly & disabled

**MOBILITY SCOOTER** as new, never been used, folds to fit into car boot, cost £700, sell £350.  
Please call 07505 961634.

**MOBILITY SCOOTERS** from £350 can deliver, servicing available. Call: Powerlink, Blackheath 01384 255019/07831 246292.

**WREKIN STAIRLIFTS** reconditioned lifts from £799. New condition. 01902 405397/07897 273617

## 2 Leisure Time

### camping equipment

**SMALL TRAILER** for sale, with lockable lid. £155. 07936 104136.

### car boot sales

**\*BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY BOOT SALE** 8AM - 2PM B4176 Rabbit Run Between Dudley and Telford WV15 5LS \* [www.bestbootsales.com](http://www.bestbootsales.com) \*

### caravans / motorhomes

**ABI STATIC CARAVAN** Three bedroom, 35 x 10, Mid Wales, site fees included for 2016, dog friendly. £3,800. 07922 351850 no texts.

**DELUXE STATIC CARAVAN** DG, CH, sited on Porthmadog Holiday Park, near Beach, excellent facilities and entertainment 2 bed, sleeps 6, £18,000. 07825 338530.

### FIAT DUCATO MAXI APACHE SE

6-bert with kitchen dinette, FSH, 7,000 miles, £38,000. 07713 029904 for more details.

**ELDIS VOGUE II** two berth caravan, almost new awning, clean condition. 01922 492321.

### FIAT DUCATO MOTORHOME 2.0

Petrol and LPG, full MoT, 45,000 miles, 2 x 3 berth, shower / toilet, full cooker, fridge, hot / cold water, all fully tested, good, clean condition.

£4,500 ono

07971 229109.

**KAMPA RALEIGH PRO 260**, air awning, excellent condition, with ground sheet, rear poles, roof lining. £390. 07791 410295.

**SPRITE MUSTKETTE EB** 2012, 1 owner, 4 berth, many extras, lightweight, very good condition, attractive upholstery, £7495. 07775 610823

### caravans wanted

**CARAVAN WANTED** cash on pick up date. Call me on 07717 090817.

### WANTED ALL CARAVANS

Any age or condition  
Also motorhomes wanted.  
**TOP PRICES PAID**  
Immediate collection.  
**CALL THOMAS 07776373150**

**TOURING CARAVAN WANTED**, in need of repair, anything considered. Please telephone 07980 365757.

### fishing

**FISHING TACKLE WANTED** anything considered. New or Old. 01902 754011 or 07931 568716.

### music shop

**FENDER RUBBLE** bass amp, Fender precision bass guitar, Digitech bass guitar, guitar leads, £280. 075019/07831 246292.

**SINGER REQUIRED**, Well established band, big pa, light show, gigs waiting, need lead singer any gender, style, tribute. Ring Paul 07811 865982.

### sports & leisure

**DAVINE EXERCISE BIKE** excellent condition, £30.00. Buyer to collect. 0121 293 6133.

### FreeAds

IT'S FREE, IT'S EASY  
For items upto £250.  
Online at  
[bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk](http://bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk)

**SET OF LEFT** handed golf clubs, bag, trolley and water proofs etc. £100 the lot. 01902 679101.

### mind, body & soul

### health & fitness

### Exciting new exercise classes arriving near you soon!

Email [activefitnessclasses@tiscali.com](mailto:activefitnessclasses@tiscali.com). An opportunity to improve strength, balance and reduce falls - sessions to suit a range of abilities.

Classes taken by two highly qualified fitness specialists with years of experience. Classes are taught by with a range of health and mobility problems. Listed with the 'Register of Exercise Professionals'. Classes starting in Halesowen, Kingswinford, Sedgley, Haggley and Brierley Hill.

Ring Kim or Angela on 07512 546480 for more details and to book your FREE taster class. A not for profit organisation

### what's on

**ANTIQUE/COLLECTORS FAIR** Kidderminster Centre, Sun 29th May (also Bromsgrove every Fri) Next fair 5th June, limited stalls available. EST 1979. Waverley News, 1st & 3rd Sunday. Home made refreshments available (all venues). 0121 550 4123.

### antique fairs

## markets

### STOURBRIDGE CAR BOOT

At Stourbridge Rugby Club  
Open every Wednesday from 18th May

**07957 399964**

### BESCOT SUNDAY MARKET

OPEN EVERY SUNDAY

Bank's Stadium, Walsall FC

WS1 4SA, FREE PARKING, J9 M6

07889 975701 All hard standing

## 3 Home & Services

### furniture

### BEDSTEAD AND MATTRESS

black wrought iron, £45.

Tub leather armchair. £5.

01902 331155.

### household appliances

### FRIDGE FREEZER

in excellent working order, £85 can deliver.

07433 919511.

### in your garden

### FLYMO LARGE

petrol mower, 18" cut, nice, clean condition. £110.

07730 911855.

### items for sale

### HAVE YOU CHECKED

your advert in the classifieds? We would like to remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

### BEDSTEAD AND MATTRESS

black wrought iron, £20.

01902 331155.

### t.v. / home entertainment

### service

### DAVIES & SON BUILDERS

Over 35 years experience in the industry

All aspects of building work including: Extensions, loft conversions, roofing, driveways & landscaping.

Discounts offered.

**01902 579592 / 07837 994465**

### carpet & upholstery cleaning

### A CLASS CARPET & UPHOLSTERY CLEANING

OAP discount. Recession Prices.

Unbeatable Value: Rooms cleaned from £10

Call Paul 07870 341089

## specialists at your service

### aerials

### AA DIGITAL AERIALS

1 AERIAL INTO 2 ROOMS £90

WE WILL BEAT ANY WRITTEN QUOTE

Work Guaranteed

01902 858191.91

01384 429166

01543 439095

01922 716029

07833 738857

VISA

Checkatrade.com

A BEST CASH PRICE

FOR ALL RAILWAY COLLECTIONS

Any gauge or age

Hornby / Bachmann / Bowmans / Roundhouse / Graham / Farish / any live steam. Also Die Cast, Corgi, Dinky, Spot On, 01384 836219/07891 713547.

thetrainmaster67 @ hotmail.com

ALL BRASS / COPPER ornaments/ brassware, all descriptions, miners lamps, old medals, dinky, corgi toys. 01902 745593.

MAMOD STEAM engines/trains wanted all conditions, railway collectables, model cars, toy vehicles, any condition. 01902 745598.

**READERS ARE ADVISED** to carefully consider all of their options before agreeing to the sale of any of their items.

**CALL: 0121 601 9791**

### building services

### DAVIES & SON BUILDERS

Over 35 years experience in the industry

All aspects of building work including:

Extensions, loft conversions, roofing,

driveways & landscaping.

Discounts offered.

**01902 579592 / 07837 994465**

### fencing

### PORTWAY FENCING

**SPECIAL OFFER**

10 bays of quality fencing, concrete posts, gravel boards

**£695**

Heavy duty panels supplied and fitted.

6x6 H/D treated panels

£15.95

6x5 Feather edge panels

£18.95

8 foot concrete posts

£8.95

12 inch & 6 foot gravel boards

£7.95

0121 531 5250 / 07866 137 656

Mon - Fri 8am - 4.30pm

Sat 8am - 12noon

83 Portway Rd, W'bury

**DELIVERY AVAILABLE**

[www.portwayfencing.co.uk](http://www.portwayfencing.co.uk)

### Tidy Fencing

Professional Fence Fitters & Gardeners

Established 2001

We are fully insured

NPTC qualified and all work comes with a 12 month warranty.

**SPECIAL RATES**

available to senior citizens.

No job too small.

**BIG SPRING DISCOUNT**

NOW AVAILABLE

**Shed reflets now available!**

**01384 620 072**

**07908 478 962**

### gardening services

GRINSELLS TIDIED from £5 per

garden. 25 years experience. Call

01902 713106 / 07813 184086.

## gas fitting

### READERS ARE ADVISED

To check that anyone carrying out any Gas work

is Gas Safe Registered.

It is an offence under the Gas

Safety (Installation and Use)

Regulations 1998 to carry out

gas work in the UK without

being on the Gas Safe Register.

### house clearances

### A ABSOLUTE BEST CASH PRICE PAID

for house clearances and bereavements.

Shops, Schools and Commercial clearances

Also removals undertaken.

All rubbish removed. Carriers licence held

07852 172641 / 0710 363027

### painters / decorators

### DECORATOR

ALL domestic work undertaken

Reliable & Affordable

Special rates for OAPs

No job too SMALL

**07957 346059**

### C.C. PAINTING & DECORATING

best quotes on request. 20% off.

07874 814522 / 01921 632635.

### alarms/security

### PREMIER ALARMS

Supplied and Fitted £195

Servicing and Repairs

12 Months Warranty

All areas covered

All quotes beaten!

### building services

### DAVIES & SON BUILDERS

Over 35 years experience in the industry

All aspects of building work including:

Extensions, loft conversions,

roofing, driveways & landscaping.

Discounts offered.

**01902 579592 / 07837 994465**

### removals

### A MAN WITH A VAN

Single item, flat/house removals/clearances, local/nationalwide.

Call Steve 0121 422 2999 or 07432 043729.

**CALL DEAN NOW:** For all your Removals needs. 07429 453209 / 01902 830870 / 01384 940620.

**CALL PETE - MAN WITH A VAN**, Removals, clearances, large/small. 01902 741546, 07899 635852.

### skip hire

### ClassifiedAds

BUY LOCAL. SELL LOCAL.

### Grinsells Skip Hire

01902 317878 | classifiedads.expressandstar.co.uk

## properties wanted

### Home Cash Buyer

Sell today, sign today, complete when u wish  
**£££ RENT BACK OPTIONS £££**  
**Houses / Land Required**

Ring Paul 24/7 Local **07870 341 089**  
 Sandwell area: Call 0121 696 4154  
 Walsall & Cannock area: Call 01922 432049  
 Wolverhampton: Call 01902 489901  
[www.homecashbuyer.co.uk](http://www.homecashbuyer.co.uk)

## ClassifiedAds

BUY LOCAL, SELL LOCAL



### IT WORKS FOR ME

We have been advertising in the Express & Star and Chronicals for over 20 years and consider it a key part of our business with the regular flow of calls, which our advertising generates.

Black Country Homes

FOR GREAT BUSINESS RESULTS CALL  
**01902 319 191**

Brought to you by  
**Express & Star**

## 7 Jobs

### full time - general

**KITCHEN MANUFACTURER  
BASED IN  
CRADLEY HEATH**  
due to expansion we require people with experience in all aspects of kitchen manufacturing including  
**beam saw  
cnc operation  
edge banding  
drilling assembly**

**MUST HAVE EXPERIENCE**  
salary negotiable  
 Contact  
 01384 561844  
 email euroff@live.com

A well established Manufacturing company based in Cradley, is seeking an

### Experienced Warehouse Manager

to further strengthen its existing management team. The successful candidate will ideally have reach and counterbalance FLT licences and must be computer literate. The salary package and benefits will be attractive and is negotiable according to the experience of the candidate.

Apply in writing including full CV to  
 Ian Kelly - Operations Director,  
 William Hackett Chain Products Ltd,  
 Maypole Fields, Cradley, West Midlands B63 2QE.

### Senior Care Assistant



We are looking for a well-qualified mature person to work with our senior team. This is a full time position with a high rate of pay for the right person.

### Care Assistants

Full or part time positions available to qualified carers or we will train mature staff who are looking for a new career.

Email CV to Michelle Upderridge at  
[michelle@lapalhouse.co.uk](mailto:michelle@lapalhouse.co.uk) or ring for a brief interview  
**0121 550 1272** (office hours only)

Lapal House, Lapal Lane South, Halesowen, B62 0ES

## SENIOR REPORTER

The Shropshire Star is looking for a senior reporter.

This is a role that requires dedication, commitment and enthusiasm. You must have a proven record of digging out the best off-diary news stories and features, together with an awareness of how to make the most of social media.

You must be an NCTJ-trained journalist and able to deliver accurate, entertaining copy under pressure of deadlines for our print and digital platforms. You must have a full, clean driving licence.

This is a rare opportunity to join the team at the Shropshire Star, part of the Midland News Association stable of publications across the Midlands.

You will benefit from a competitive salary, 25 days annual holiday and the chance to develop your career on one of the country's biggest regional newspapers.

Apply by e-mail to Shropshire Star editor Martin Wright at [editorial.support@shropshirestar.co.uk](mailto:editorial.support@shropshirestar.co.uk)  
 Closing date will be June 3, 2016.

POSTAL APPLICATIONS TO:

MARTIN WRIGHT EDITOR

SHROPSHIRE STAR

KETLEY, TELFORD TF1 5HU

BY JUNE 6, 2016.

## courses

TAMWORTH: 2-3 JUNE    TELFORD: 3-4 SEPT.    Accredited  
 BIRM'HAM: 15-16 AUG.    STOKE: 17-18 SEPT.

**Learn how to take blood  
TRAIN AS A PHLEBOTOMIST**  
 NATIONALLY RECOGNISED AND ACCREDITED  
**Introduction to Phlebotomy**  
 TWO DAY COURSE - Certificate in Phlebotomy  
**NO PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE REQUIRED**

More info. or to book: [www.geopace.com](http://www.geopace.com)  
 Hospitals - GP Surgeries - Clinics - Private Sector - Community - MOD - Research - Overseas

### full time - general

**FURNITURE SALES MANAGER  
(Retail)** - Merry Hill, Dudley, West Midlands, DY2 1JL  
 Negotiating skills. Experience of furniture retail an advantage but not essential. Salary £30k per year.  
 OTE 37.5 hours per week. No late nights. Email covering letter and CV to [barbara.harris@williamsonsons.co.uk](mailto:barbara.harris@williamsonsons.co.uk)

## 8 Motoring

### cars over £1500

### SELLING YOUR CAR?

We have a package to suit every budget.  
 Packages start from as little as

**£21.00 for 6 nights**

Plus  
 6 nights free if you do not sell.

**CALL**  
**01902 317878**

**CITROEN C4 2-dr Coupe, 1.6 VTR  
petrol, blue, 36,000 miles, FSH,  
Mot, good condition, £2,895.00.**

**FORD FIESTA TITANIUM  
New Shape, black, 5dr, 1.6, 09  
reg (Aug 09), 31k, Mot Nov '13,  
E/W, E/M, alloys, hands free  
blue tooth phone kit, FSH,  
perfect runner, £4,750.00.**

**07528 372995.**

**FORD FOCUS Titanium, 1.6 TDCi,  
01902 789597, 2014, 91,000  
miles, any inspection, £3,450.**

**07970 592775.**

**MAZDA 6 TAKUYA 2012, 2.2 diesel  
sports style, 17,600 miles, 12  
months Mot, half leather, immaculate.  
£9,500. 01384 832702.**

**FORD FUSION 2  
05, 37,808 miles, silver blue,  
abs, electric windows, air bag,  
electric mirrors, air con, Mot,  
metallic paint, central locking,  
pas, stereo, CD, sub.  
£1,995.00.**

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**07970 592775.**

**FORD FUSION 2  
05, 37,808 miles, silver blue,  
abs, electric windows, air bag,  
electric mirrors, air con, Mot,  
metallic paint, central locking,  
pas, stereo, CD, sub.  
£1,995.00.**

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**MAZDA 6 TAKUYA 2012, 2.2 diesel  
sports style, 17,600 miles, 12  
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LUCY 37yrs 5ft 11ins blonde, loves nightife, socialising, having fun, looking for fun guy who can make me laugh and promises a good time. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422455

KATIE 35yrs, slender well educated blonde seeks no strings mutual pleasure with gent 40+. Must be discreet, married or single. ACA: Tel: 0906 515 3003 Box 419673

BARBARA, 49, attractive green-eyed blonde, OHAC, likes travel, cinema, meals out etc, looking for genuine caring male up to 65yrs for possible LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422439

KIM, 32yrs, attractive blonde lady seeks discreet gent for daytime distractions. ACA: Tel: 0906 515 3007 Box 421657

FEMALE, 67, young looking widow, 5ft 2, green eyes, likes meals out, holidays, reading, WLTM gentleman of similar age, or older. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422393

JANE, young 41, very broadminded seeks chap any age for discreet no strings, any age, no time wasters ACA: Tel: No: 0906 515 3011 Box: 409715

MICHELLE, 37, pretty, very fit, well travelled seeks active, broadminded male to share new experiences and adventures with. ACA: Tel: No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422459

LUCY first time advertiser, 32yrs, tall slim blonde airline worker, seeks discreet gent for possible LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422033

CHRIS, 40, blue eyed blonde single female, lots of interests, loves travel, beach, nights in/out, looking for mature sincere gent for possible LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422013

JENNY, 48, single independent attractive lady, tall and leggy, sensual and looking for very special male friend. Only genuine callers pls. Tel: No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422033

LUCY, 40, blue eyed blonde single female, lots of interests, loves travel, beach, nights in/out, looking for mature sincere gent for possible LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422033

EMMA 56, active and always on the go, seeks fit, active, country loving guy who shares passion for the outdoors. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422443

SOPHIA young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. Tel: 0906 515 3019 Box: 413393

KATHY, 45, curly blonde seeking reliable honest man who can get me out of this rut I am stuck in, open to new ideas and looking for someone special? Give me a try. Tel: No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422263

EMILY, mature well educated lady, blonde and smart and broadminded seeks gent any age for no strings fun. ACA: Tel: 0906 515 3023 Box 421375

KAREN 32 a hardworking petite blonde, enjoys nights out, music, etc, WLTM for more than just friendship with similar chilled, kind, easygoing guy. Tel: No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422267

WENDY, mature, passionate ladylike divorcee seeks no strings casual friendship/fit with gent any age. Tel: 0906 515 3035 Box 421605

JACKIE, 49, dark hair, green eyes, cuddly build, likes going out, gym, reading, looking for an honest gentleman for friendship/possible relationship. Tel: No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422257

JESSIE, sophisticated, well educated blonde lady, 38yrs, WLTM man of any age for discreet chats, meetings and more. Age/looks unimportant must have SOH. Box: 410787

FEMALE, looking for an honest, caring, easygoing male. I am divorced and like walks, going for meals, cinema and love dogs. Text only Mailbox: 4539974

CAROLINE, bored housewife 42, seeking a little excitement. Are you 30+ and discreet, if so ping me a text and give me a few details. Box: 4078682

JOANNA, 49 years old, looking to meet a man for friendship 50/60 years old. Text only Mailbox: 5428223

LORRAINE bored 36yrs old looking for discreet no strings fun with uninterested unkind male, any age/gold/looks/status. Call me. Tel: No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422241

SARA, 39, home owner, likes animals, tattoos and texting, looking for friendship hopefully leading to more. Get in touch! Tel: No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421455

LUCY, 49, just looking to enjoy life, can you help? seeks fun and good times in or out, nothing heavy just no strings meets. Tel: No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422223

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CHRISTINE, 48, petite blue eyed blonde, attractive, many varied interests, looking for honest, caring, N/S romantic guy with GSOH to make my life complete again. Tel: No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422445

MARILYN blue eyed curvy just right female, 36, loves music, good wine, romantic strolls, nice nights in, WLTM like-minded romantic for quality times. Age unimportant. Tel: No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422277

BROWN eyed bubbly female, 65, smoker, likes music, cinema, meals out, WLTM male, 66-73, for LTR. Text only Mailbox: 4400186

CLARA, 32yrs old nurse who likes cosy nights in with a good bottle of wine and spending quality times with great company, if you feel the same get in touch. Tel: No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421127

CHRIS, 40, blue eyed blonde single female, lots of interests, loves travel, beach, nights in/out, looking for mature sincere gent for possible LTR. Tel: No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422033

JENNY, 48, single independent attractive lady, tall and leggy, sensual and looking for very special male friend. Only genuine callers pls. Tel: No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422033

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EMMA 56, active and always on the go, seeks fit, active, country loving guy who shares passion for the outdoors. Tel: No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422443

JANE, young 41, very broadminded seeks chap any age for discreet no strings, any age, no time wasters ACA: Tel: No: 0906 515 3007 Box 421657

MICHELLE, 37, pretty, very fit, well travelled seeks active, broadminded male to share new experiences and adventures with. ACA: Tel: No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422459

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# Magnificent Mazda CX-3



By Michael Weston

**Mazda's compact CX-3 is an urban crossover that's reprising the success of its CX-5 big brother.**

Mazda pulls out all the stops and condenses all the best bits of the gorgeous CX-5 into a smaller package. The CX-3 comes in front or all-wheel drive, and is offered with petrol or diesel power. It's light and it's good looking, with a chunky equipment list and reasonable pricing.

What more could you ask for?

All too often, cars in this class look gawky, too stubby, too tall and too narrow. Somehow the CX-3 just looks right, thanks to its cab-back body and long bonnet proportioning. The predatory headlights are anything but cutesy and the coupe-like roofline gives it a real sporting stance.

Like most crossovers in this class, the CX-3 is offered with a choice of front or all-wheel drive chassis, and petrol and diesel engines. There are front-wheel drive models and the range-topping Sport Nav is all-wheel drive. The CX-3 is also offered with both manual and automatic transmissions.

Mazda's almost fanatical devotion to stripping unnecessary weight out of its cars means that although many of its cars look pretty substantial, they can weigh as much as a car in the next class down. This has all sorts of beneficial effects, not only in terms of vehicle dynamics but also when it comes to efficiency. Case in point: the CX-3 front-wheel drive diesel variant. With emissions of just 105g/km, this model has an official combined economy of 70.6mpg.

## Mazda's compact CX-3 is an urban crossover that is reprising the success of its CX-5 big brother

When it comes to compact SUVs and crossovers, Mazda's CX-5 may very well be the best car of this kind you can buy, especially in revised form with slicker suspension.

The market's fastest growing segment right now is that for crossovers and compact soft-roading SUVs. If you want something that offers the best of both and offers the finest driving dynamics, the lowest running costs, the most space and arguably the best value in the class, then it's hard to ignore Mazda's improved CX-5. But try one and you might just think it to be the best.

The CX-5 is excellently packaged, has class-leading economy and emissions plus driving dynamics that set a new benchmark in this sector. Add in a high specification and competitive pricing and you've a compelling proposition, especially since recent suspension and refinement improvements.

As for off road prowess, this car has a set-up in which the torque is automatically split according to the terrain you're on, so it can direct 100% of drive to the front wheels in normal conditions, with up to 50% then directed to the rear wheels if slip is detected.

The Mazda CX-5 is the least expensive car to run in its segment as well as being the best equipped. It's yet another example of Mazda going its own way, doing things differently. Looking for a car of this kind?



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62 Corsa 1.4 SE Auto Blue Only 7000 Miles	<b>£7,995</b>
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62 VW Polo 1.4 Match 3dr Auto Black Only 10000 Miles	<b>£8,995</b>
64 Suzuki SX4 S Cross 1.6 SZ3 Red Only 11000 Miles	<b>£9,995</b>
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13 Megane 1.6 Expression Blue Only 13000 Miles	<b>£6,995</b>
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12 C4 1.6 VTR+ Auto Blue Only 15000 Miles	<b>£7,495</b>
13 Qashqai 1.6 Acenta Nightshade Only 16000 Miles	<b>£10,995</b>
12 C4 G Picas 1.6 HDI VTR+ EGS Red Only 17000 Miles	<b>£9,995</b>
62 Note 1.6 N-Tec+ Blue Only 17000 Miles	<b>£7,495</b>
13 C3 1.4 HDI VTR+ Silver Only 17000 Miles	<b>£7,295</b>
13 C-Max 1.6 TDCi Titanium Bronze Only 18000 Miles	<b>£10,495</b>

### Citroen

60 C3 1.4 HDI Grey 43k	<b>£4,995</b>
62 C3 Picasso 1.6 Exc EGS Blue 29k	<b>£7,495</b>
62 C4 Picasso 1.6 HDI Edition Silver 20k	<b>£8,995</b>
60 C4 Picasso 1.6 HDI VTR+ EGS Silver 43k	<b>£6,495</b>
13 C4 G Picasso 1.6 HDI Platinum Blue 37k	<b>£9,995</b>
62 C4 G Picasso 1.6 HDI Edition Brown 37k	<b>£9,495</b>
07 Picasso 1.6 HDI VTX Red 77k	<b>£2,795</b>
13 Berlingo 1.6 HDI VTR EGS6 Blue 25k	<b>£8,495</b>

### Ford

57 Fiesta 1.25 Zetec Cli 3dr Black	<b>£2,495</b>
08 Fusion 1.6 Zetec Blue 69k	<b>£3,495</b>
13 Focus 1.6 TDCI Zetec Black 27k	<b>£8,995</b>
08 Focus 2.0 TDCI Coupe Cab Red	<b>£3,495</b>
13 C-Max 1.6 TDCI Zetec Red 42k	<b>£8,495</b>

### Nissan

62 Note 1.4 N-Tec+ Black 23k	<b>£6,995</b>
62 Juke 1.5 DCI Acenta Black 29k	<b>£9,995</b>
62 Juke 1.6 Acenta White 20k	<b>£8,995</b>
13 Qashqai 1.6 N-Tec+ Auto Nightshade 44k	<b>£11,995</b>
07 X-Trail 2.2 DCI Aventura Blue	<b>£4,995</b>

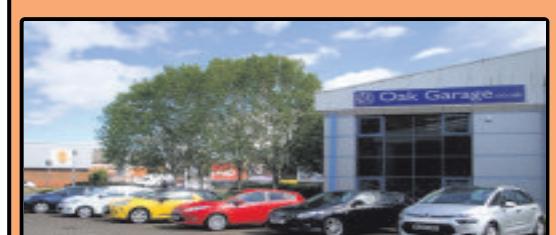
### Seat

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12 Seat Leon 1.6 TDI CR SE Copa DSG White 40k	<b>£8,495</b>
62 Seat Leon 1.6 TDI CR SE Copa White 45k	<b>£8,295</b>

### Vauxhall

57 Corsa 1.4 Design Auto Silver 32k	<b>£4,295</b>
60 Meriva 1.3 CDTI Exclusiv Grey 45k	<b>£5,495</b>
13 Meriva 1.4 SE Silver Lake 20k	<b>£7,995</b>
62 Meriva 1.7 CDTI Exc Auto Brown 34k	<b>£6,495</b>
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# Astra heads into space

By Jonathan Crouch

Vauxhall is hoping to increase its presence in the compact estate sector with the latest Astra Sports Tourer.

MPVs and 4x4s might offer more interesting options for family buyers but the solid, practical virtues of a good estate are not to be under-estimated.

This one's cleaner, more frugal, more practical, higher-tech and sharper to look at than before. It's a better package all-round.

When what you need to fit in your car just won't, you need a bigger car. Family hatchback owners confronted with this nightmare scenario have a number of options at their disposal. They could take the rugged route with a compact 4x4, choose the versatility of a mini-MPV or step up to a medium range saloon.

Alternatively, they could turn to an extended version of the family hatchback they already have. The estate car isn't the trendiest or most exciting option, but when you need a little bit more room, it does the job. Vauxhall's Astra Sports Tourer is little more than an extended Astra hatch but it could be all the car you need, especially in latest generation form.

Many of the leading lights in the family hatchback sector have an estate version. Focus, Golf, Peugeot 308 – the manufacturers of all these models see the value of tagging another few centimetres onto the rear of the five-door hatches to give customers the option of extra carrying capacity.

Vauxhall has a history of following suit with its Astra but like its rivals, sales of Astra estates have traditionally been way down on those of the standard hatchback versions.

The compact estate market looks likely

to remain a niche one but with flashy Sports Tourer branding, this generation Astra estate could be destined to take a bigger slice of it.

Like the rest of the Astra Sports Tourer, the suspension is shared with the Astra hatchback. Reducing this latest model's weight by up to 200kgs has had a significant effect on the way this car drives.

It now soaks up bumps better and turns into the bends more easily, aided by a stiffer chassis and torque vectoring that helps with cornering traction. As before, this Vauxhall does without the kind of independent rear suspension system you'd find on a rival Ford Focus Estate, instead favouring a neat Watts linkage system that claims to reduce sideways motion between the axle and the body of the car as you go through the corners.

Under the bonnet, those in search of petrol power have an up-to-the-minute range of options.

We'd suggest you bypass the most affordable 100PS 1.4-litre engine in favour of the lighter, more responsive and much more efficient 105PS 1.0-litre ECOTEC turbo three cylinder unit. If you need more power, there are a couple of 1.4-litre Turbo powerplants offering 125 or 150PS, plus a top 200PS 1.6 Turbo option. Diesel drivers get Vauxhall's refined 1.6-litre CDTI 'whisper diesel' unit with a choice of three power outputs – 110, 136 or 160PS. The 110PS ecoFLEX variant delivers class-leading efficiency figures – 91.2mpg on the combined cycle and 82g/km of CO2.

The Sports Tourer body shape further extends the now-sportier styling of the seventh generation five-door model. The slightly arched sloping roofline gives this estate derivative a longer appearance – an effect further enhanced by the divided C-pillar. The rear view aims to combine practicality with a bit of elegant design, but



**The suspension is shared with the Astra hatchback. Reducing this latest model's weight by up to 200kgs has had a significant effect on the way this car drives**

element is what Vauxhall refers to as a 'blade'-style panel that stretches right across the cabin trimmed in piano black with a neat chromed edging. Beautifully integrated into it is an IntelliLink infotainment screen, either 7 or 8-inches in size.

There's a price premium of around £1,000 for the Sports Tourer estate version over its five-door hatchback stablemate and that means you'll be paying from just over £16,500 to around £21,000 for mainstream versions.

At the affordable end of the petrol line-up, it's well worth trying to find the £700 premium Vauxhall asks to graduate from the entry-level 1.4-litre 100PS unit to the far more responsive and efficient three cylinder 1.0-litre powerplant.

Want a diesel? Well there are no duffers in the Astra black pump line-up any more – even the base 110PS 1.6-litre CDTI unit (priced from around £18,000) is impressive. Most buyers though, pay the necessary premium (around £700) to get themselves this engine in pokier 136PS guise.

Conventional automatic transmission is only available on the 150PS 1.4-litre petrol Turbo model or the 136PS version of the 1.6-litre CDTI diesel – for a premium of around £1,300 over the manual variant. However, at the bottom of the range, you can get a simpler 'Easytronic' set-up – essentially a manual gearbox without a clutch – on the 1.0-litre petrol engine for a premium of just £400.

Standard equipment across the range includes alloy wheels and an IntelliLink colour infotainment touchscreen compatible with the latest Apple CarPlay and Android Auto systems. We particularly like the 'OnStar' personal connectivity system that offers destination downloads, wi-fi access, vehicle tracking system and automatic accident emergency response.

At the wheel, the characteristic fascia



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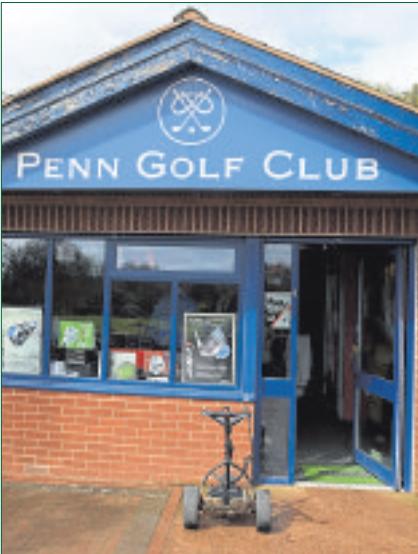


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Junior players with Penn Golf Club professional Adam Robinson



The Penn Golf Club shop



Penn Golf Club senior players with the club captain Alex Haynes



Young hopeful Dan Porter makes a putt

# club in the swing for National Golf Month

PENN Golf Club has teed off for a busy month of action with a wide series of events.

The well-appointed club that spreads out across the scenic Penn Common will have one eye of the future when it stages the Wolverhampton and Dudley Primary Schools Putting Championships throughout the summer term.

Families can also get into the swing of things on Bank Holiday Monday, May 30 with a Family Putting Challenge from 2-7pm, with golf and family meal-deal vouchers up for grabs. It is open to non-club members.

The club is also hosting two prestigious individual events, with 84 players from all over the country taking part in the Inaugural American Golf Seniors Championship. The top three pairs will qualify for the national final at The Belfry later in the year.

## Progress

To conclude National Golf Month, Penn will be the host venue for the England Golf Midland Region Ladies Final Medal on Sunday.

A field of 120 players from across the Midlands will tee off in an 18-hole stroke play competition. The top 10 progress to Grand Medal Final Week in August.

The packed schedule will add to secretary Mick Woodhouse's increasing workload but he is more than happy to help the club build towards a bright future.

Woodhouse is especially keen to increase the number of youngsters at the club and has forged a partnership with numerous schools across Wolverhampton that sees him and the club's qualified PGA coaches run sessions.

"Golf clubs going out to put sessions on at schools is quite a unique thing," said Woodhouse, who will be teeing off in the Seniors Championship on Friday.

## SPORTING FEATURE

By Nick Elwell

**"We are trying to attract young members and any budding golfers can come along and join our academy."**

"We go to quite a lot of schools across the Wolverhampton area and we are planning something similar in Dudley," Whitehouse added.

"We deliver sessions and it's really enjoyable. The Tri Golf is very popular because it caters for players of all abilities."

"We are trying to attract young members to the club and any budding golfers can come along and join our academy."

The academy offers a pathway from beginner to professional under the guidance of academy director and club professional Mark Butler and junior organiser Adam Robinson.

"Mark Butler is our club professional and he runs the Mark Butler Golf Academy at Sedgley," added Woodhouse.

"The youngsters can go there and have some sessions with Mark and then hopefully join our club."

"That's the pathway we are trying to create."

One of Penn's former juniors, James Willis, is flying the flag for the club on the professional scene.

"James Willis started as a junior here and he has just turned professional," said Woodhouse.

"James is from Sedgley and he used to play county

golf for Staffordshire and got a scholarship in America. That's an example of the pathway open to young players."

"A lot of our members started off as juniors here, and some have gone on to be captain of the club."

Eight-handicapper Woodhouse was a keen cricketer with Wightwick before catching the golfing bug.

He has been a member at Penn since 1988 and, along with a hard-working committee, is determined to drive the club forward in what is a competitive business.

"We are trying to look after the club's future," he said.

"Forging links with local schools is an important step while it's great for the club to be staging the American Golf Seniors Championship and the England Golf Midland Region Ladies Final Medal."

## Stable

"Staging events such as those is testament to the quality of our course and helps raise the club's profile."

"We have a membership of around 500."

"We are doing okay. We are stable and that's not a bad position in today's market because it's very competitive."

"It's a lovely environment here and we are also planning to refurbish the club."

"We have a very good committee here, so we are moving in the right direction."

The schools and family putting competitions are sponsored and supported by The Golf Foundation so there is no charge for instruction or entry into the competitions.

"They are open to school Years 4, 5 and 6 and schools can take up to 15 pupils per event."

Any schools or families wishing to enter and take part in the competitions can do so by contacting the club on 01902 341142 or e-mail [secretary@penngolfclub.co.uk](mailto:secretary@penngolfclub.co.uk)



Members relax at the 19th hole – inside the clubhouse



Zak Jones tees off as junior players look on

SPORTS DESK 01902 319531

Club puts on host of events to mark National Golf Month

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## Boost for the Glassboys as trio sign on

GOALKEEPER Matt Gould and attacking midfielder Chris Lait have signed new contracts at Stourbridge FC.

The duo have put pen to paper on new deals at Ambelcote until the end of the 2016/17 season, following in the footsteps of central defender Dan Scarf who is already contracted to the club for the new campaign.

Lait, who joined from Rushall Olympic in March 2014, was the Glassboys' joint second highest scorer last season with 16 goals, including stunning strikes in the FA Cup wins against Kidderminster Harriers and Dover Athletic.

Gould signed for Stourbridge on loan from Scottish Championship side Livingston in January and played 21 times, proving to be a solid presence behind the back four as Stourbridge pushed towards the play-offs.

Meanwhile, Stourbridge have also have confirmed their season ticket and matchday admission prices for 2016/17. These are as follows: Adults £10, senior citizens and 17-18-year-olds £7, 11-16-year-olds £3, accompanied under-11s free.

An adult's full season ticket costs £170, £100 for senior citizens and 17-18-year-olds £7, and £50 for 11-to-16s.

All children under 11 will be admitted free as long as they are accompanied by a paying adult or season ticket holder.

Flexi-season tickets will also be available. These comprise 12 numbered vouchers that can be used at any home league game. The vouchers are not restricted to the season ticket holder and can be used to allow entry for any person to any home league game.

An application form can be downloaded from the club's website [www.stourbridgefc.com](http://www.stourbridgefc.com). Season tickets can be applied for by post, and will be on sale at the club from Thursday, June 2 from 7pm onwards.

## Heathens silence the Storm and go joint top of table

CRADLEY battled their way back to joint top of the National League with a 52-38 win over Coventry Storm at Monmore Green on Monday night.

Heathens head to Eastbourne in the league on Saturday and then to Buxton in the cup on Sunday. The next home meeting is the second leg of their cup tie with the Hitmen on Monday June 13.

Cradley 52; Max Clegg 16-2, Ashley Morris 15, Luke Chesser 9, James Purchase 7, Ben Basford 4-2, Bradley Andrews 1, Jack Kingston 8/R.

Coventry 38; Dan Greenwood 11, Martin Knuckey 9+, Conor Dwyer 7-4, Ryan Terry-Daley 7, Callum Walker 4-2, Kyle Roberts 0, Liam Carr R/R.

Cradley chiefs say their showpiece individual event of the year, the Dudley Stroke Association Golden Hammer on August 9, has all the makings of being the best of the modern era.

Adam Ellis will defend his title with Dan Bewley also included. Tom Perry, Paul Starke, Steve Worrall, Nathan Greaves and Matt Williamson will all return to Monmore.

Admission is £15 adults, £12 concessions, free for children and £5 season ticket holders with their pass.

## Fighters claim European medal haul



Pride gym kickboxing medallists

TEENAGE fighter Reuben Charlesworth boxed to his fourth consecutive win – and then followed up with a kickboxing gold.

The 18-year-old, from Lower Gornal is unbeaten as a boxer, and maintained his record with a second round stoppage against Jake Hudson from the Fight Den in Birmingham.

Charlesworth, who trains at Pride boxing gym in Halesowen, under the guidance of his father Jason, gained further success at the ICO Kickboxing European championships in Rome.

Seven participants came back with medals, with golds going to Charlesworth in the 18-years

### Boxing

category, Liberty Smith in the 16s, Finlay Wright in the 15-years, Tyler Cox for 12-year-olds and Luke Ashby for the aged nines. Connor Preece in the 17s and Kiarya Charlesworth, 12-years, returned with silvers.

Head coach Jason Charlesworth, a 6th Dan said: "All of our fighters did our school and country proud. There was plenty of talent on show."

These, and other fighters from the Halesowen martial arts centre, will travel to France for the world championships in October.

# RAIN SPARES HALES DEFEAT

HALESOWEN Cricket Club skipper Richard Brooker has voiced concerns over the amount of pressure on the shoulders of star batsman Ed Kilbee.

And Brooker has admitted this week is spent considering the batting line-up as his side prepares to face Penkridge at Seth Somers Park this Saturday (midday).

Brooker says rain saved them from defeat in Saturday's clash with C&R Hawks in Cannock which was abandoned.

They were bowled out for a lowly 136 on a slow wicket with Kilbee hitting 40 and Will Barrett 35.

The home side were well on their way to victory at 87-2 from 16 overs when the rain came to save Hales' blushes.

The result put Halesowen fourth after collecting six points from what play was possible.

Said Brooker: "Admittedly it was a tough pitch to bat on but we really didn't apply ourselves at key times which was disappointing."

### Reliant

"As good as Ed Kilbee is we really cannot be reliant on him week in, week out so there is some thinking to be done this week about how we go about our batting plans."

"In truth the rain saved us from a defeat this week."

The second XI remains in mid-table after their washed out game against a Kidderminster team that were ravaged by injuries and unavailability.

Batting first Halesowen clocked up 227-6 thanks to Tom Williams (67) Mark Hutchinson (51 not out) and Kish Patel (30).

In reply Kidderminster had eased their way to 36-1 off seven overs when the rains came. Halesowen picked up nine points.

Halesowen thirds were 228 all out (S Gill 100) and Bromsgrove 3rds 84-1 when their game was abandoned.

The seconds go to Knowle & Dorridge on Saturday for a 12.30pm start.

Himley are the opponents for the third and fourth teams with the thirds travelling and fourths at home. Both games get under way at 1pm.

## Jordanne doubles up for title



Jordanne Whiley and partner Yui Kamiji who won the Japan Open women's doubles title

HALESOWEN'S Jordanne Whiley proved a smash hit in the Far East again as she successfully defended her Japan Open women's doubles title. She teamed up with Japan's Yui Kamiji to beat Dutch top seeds Jiske Griffioen and Aniek Koot.

A dominant performance from 23-year-old Whiley and Kamiji saw them power to an emphatic 6-1, 6-1 success. It was their fourth Super Series doubles title together.

"I was disappointed with my singles this week after going out in the quarter-finals," said

Whiley. "I really wanted to win here with Yui in her home country."

"It's also an important win for me as I needed the points to stay in the world's top four in doubles, so to produce such a good win over the current world No.1 pairing is great."

A fine end to the series for Britain saw Jamie Burderkin and Andy Lapthorne win the quad doubles while Alfie Hewett and Gordon Reid lived up to their second seeding to finish runners-up in their third Super Series men's doubles final.

## Bell sounds on Aston's title attempt

DUDLEY'S Ryan Aston came off second best as he was knocked out by defending Midlands middleweight champion Craig Cunningham.

A cracking area title tussle resulted in Aston was being left face down after Cunningham's final blows finished him off just seconds before the bell at the end of the sixth round.

The 10-round contest was the headline bout at promoted Paul 'PJ' Rowden's 'Resurgence' show at Dudley Town Hall on Saturday night.

Hometown hero Aston was attempting to claim a bonafide belt for the fourth time, in this third Midlands title shot.

He first attempted to seize the area middleweight crown in 2012.

Brummie Cunningham, aged 28, who lives in Oldbury, was putting the strap up-for-grabs for the first time and now plans to drop down to light middle. A quarter of well-matched four round bouts supported the main event.

Rowley Regis' Tyler Denny faced a tough super middleweight bout against Devon-born Spaniard Cristian Hoskin-Gomez. A second successive 38-38 draw for 24-year-old Denny had ring-siders scrambling for the history books. Seldom does a competitor draw twice in a row.

Netherton's Lee Byfield had his hand raised by a 40-38 victory over Swindon's Joe Beeden, his fifth straight victory.

Boxing's only professional poet, Matt Windle, opened the show with his first points shut out in his third professional contest. The Brummie overcame the game Gary Reeve by a 40-35 margin.

'Matt Man,' coached by ex-pro Neil Perkins, remains unbeaten.

The last under-card bout saw Lichfield's Brad Foster outpoint Jordan Turner, of Nottinghamshire, at fly-weight. Turner was nursing what looked like a split lip and swelling by his right eye, but took a decent test by 39-37.

## Duo in Lisbon to represent Britain

BLACK Country Triathletes' junior section came home with a number of medals from a duathlon at Stourport Sports Club. More than 120 children, aged from seven to 16, took part.

Meanwhile, the club's, Keith Bate won bronze in his age group at the British Sprint Triathlon Championships at Emberton Country Park, while Steve Blakemore finished as 1st Vet in the Phoenix Sprint Triathlon at Ragley Hall, Warwickshire.

They will both represent Great Britain in the age group standard and sprint distance races at the European Duathlon Championships in Lisbon this weekend.

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